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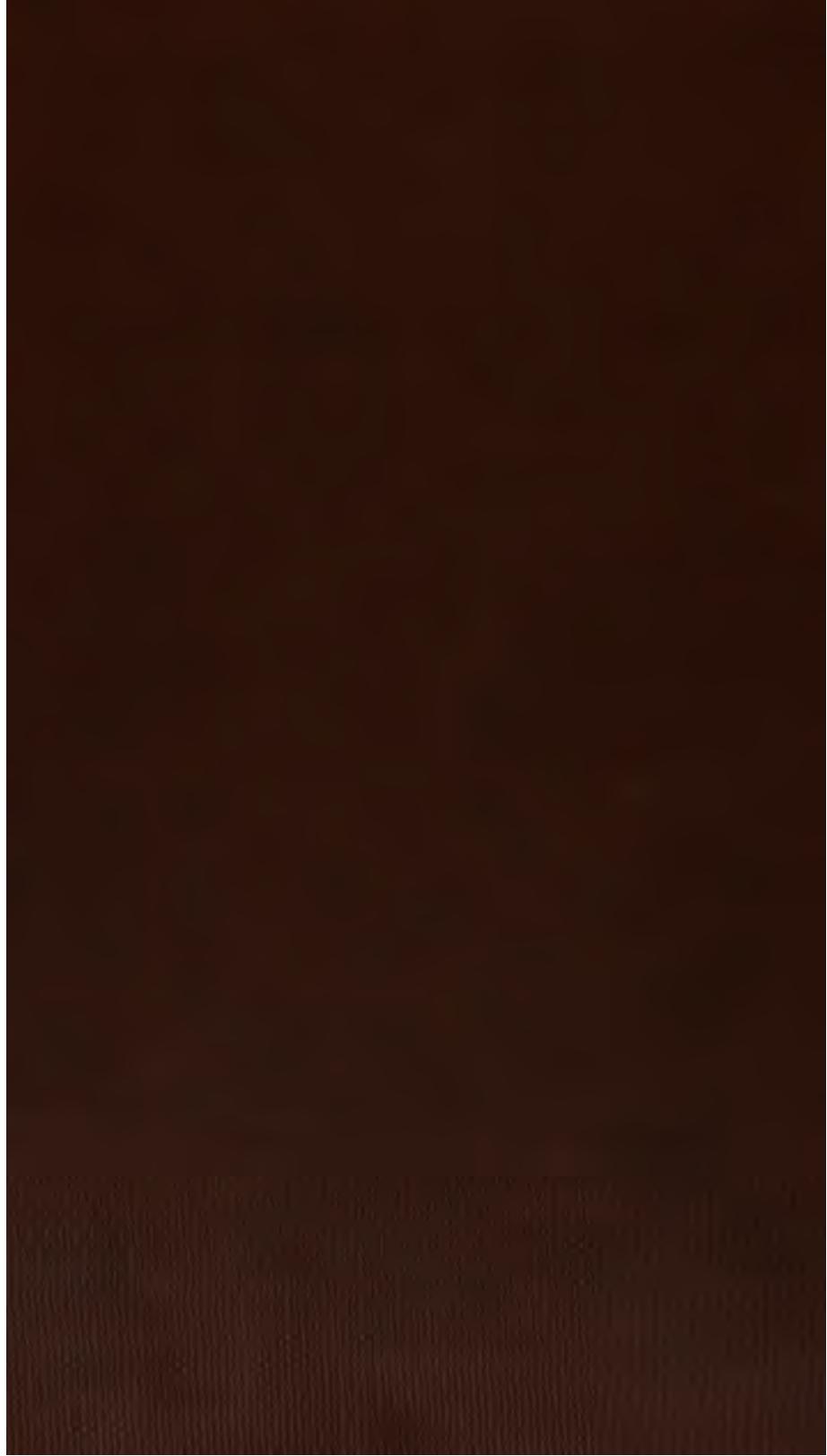
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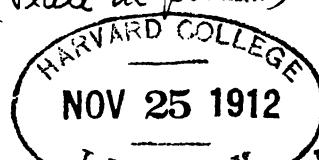


MEMOIRS
OF
DR. RICHARD GILPIN,
OF SCALEBY CASTLE IN CUMBERLAND;
AND OF
HIS POSTERITY IN THE TWO SUCCEEDING
GENERATIONS;
WRITTEN, IN THE YEAR 1791,
BY THE
REV. WM. GILPIN, VICAR OF BOLDRE:
TOGETHER WITH
AN ACCOUNT OF THE AUTHOR,
BY HIMSELF:
AND A PEDIGREE OF THE GILPIN FAMILY.

EDITED BY WILLIAM JACKSON, F.S.A.

LONDON: BERNARD QUARITCH.
CARLISLE: CHAS. THURNAM AND SONS.
1879.

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1879.

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INTRODUCTION.

These Memoirs, and the Record which follows, were written solely, as the author has himself stated, for the entertainment and instruction of his descendants.

Being favoured with the loan of the manuscript copy several years ago, I have not ceased to solicit that the public should be allowed to share the delight which I had felt in its perusal. The natural hesitation of the owner at last yielded to my persistent persuasions to the effect, that the publication of the work was calculated to widen the sphere of pleasure and instruction it was so well fitted to afford, and the Cumberland and Westmorland Archaeological Society have been kindly permitted to add it to the number of their publications.

Although our Literature is by no means poor in the fascinating department of Family History, yet it is believed that this volume is unique in the nature of its contents.

The only two works that we possess at all comparing with it are "The Lives of the Norths," by Roger, the surviving brother, and "The Lives of the Lyndsays," by

Lord Lyndsay ; but when closely compared, the distinctions are more patent than the resemblances. The former work is at once an Apology and a Eulogy, and the scene is that of the Great World. The latter has some special points of similarity, for it was written for family perusal only, and its standpoint is Christian and instructive ; but the Lyndsays are a family of historic renown, and their deeds have been performed on the World's Stage ; whilst our Memoirs and Record are so domestic as to speak to the heart and understanding of every well-disposed Englishman, without that parade of pious verbiage which renders so many books, carefully prepared, as it is thought, to do good, eminently distasteful to the general reader.

Galton, in his work on "Hereditary Genius," with singular penetration, whilst adducing Bernard, George, Richard, and William Gilpin, as examples of the truth of his theory, expresses regret that he knows so little of the Family History, and feels assured that if his information were more extended, he should therein find additional illustrations of its truth.

The Pedigree will sufficiently show that all-pervading as the literary faculty is, the artistic is even more so, for Benjamin West perhaps owes his celebrity to his Gilpin descent ; but most of all would I claim for those of the blood—and I have good reason for doing so—a spirit of loving kindness, which is as manifest in the living as it was in the deceased members of the Family.

INTRODUCTION.

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As the work is intended primarily for the members of the Cumberland and Westmorland Archaeological Society, though I hope and believe that its circulation may be more extended, I have striven to add to its local interest by such notes as appeared to me to be fairly illustrative of the text; but I trust the reader will not break the even tenour of his way, by casting his eye downward, but yield to the fascination which I feel assured will seize upon him, and leave the notes to a second perusal.

The following extract from a letter written by the Rev. William Gilpin to his friend the Rev. Richard Warner, given in the Literary Recollections of the latter, (from which I shall very frequently have occasion to quote,) gives a more extended account of the origin of the work, more particularly of the special copy from which this volume has been printed, accompanied by a few interesting family details.

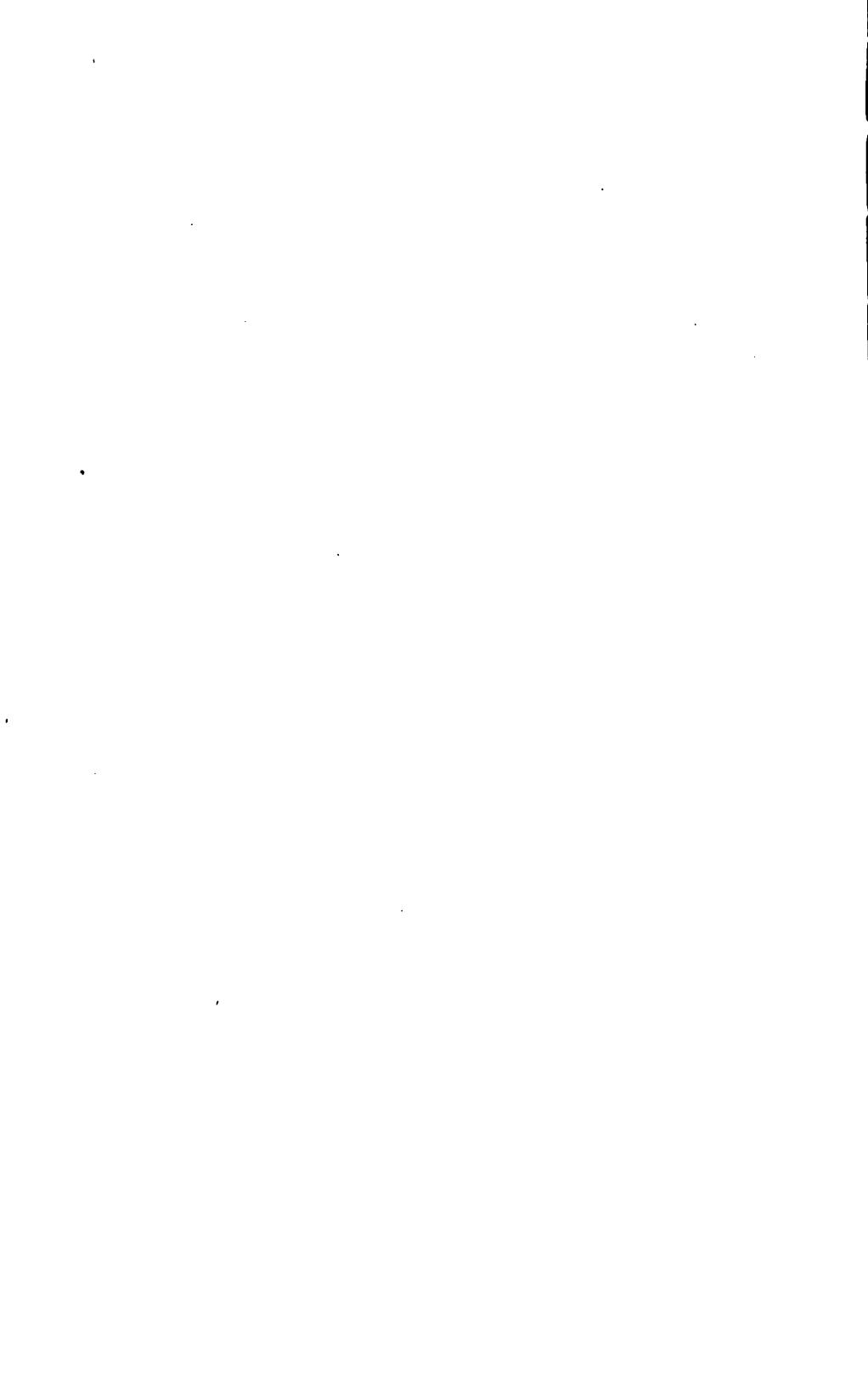
"Pray, did I ever tell you that I had a son settled in America? At the conclusion of the American War, when all things looked dismal at home, he had a great inclination, being yet unsettled in business, to try his fortune there, chiefly by the advice of the late Leonidas Glover, who was always particularly friendly to me and mine. I consented; but I believe he would have returned, if he had not met with an object at Philadelphia, (in a very respectable family, to which he had been recommended,) who detained him. He bought a little estate therefore; and if he is not likely to be rich, he is likely to be (what you will allow to be nearly as good) very happy. He purchased also several thousand acres of waste lands, yet uncultivated. They have already risen in value; and by the time my three grandchildren, William, Barnard, and Edwin, or

their children, are fit to cultivate them, civilization will, probably, have crept up to them : so that in a century or two, I shall, probably, enlarge myself over several leagues of the New World, and have a considerable interest both in Europe and America. May I not think myself somebody ? Last spring my son came over, and paid us a short visit, and we have just heard he had arrived safely again across the Atlantic. He was always a well disposed young man ; but I think the manners of the country have given him a more serious turn ; which I was well pleased with. His chief employment whilst he was here was transcribing a family record, which I drew up some time ago, of my great grandfather, my grandfather, and father ; who were all very valuable men ; and I encouraged him in it, for the sake of William, Barnard, and Edwin, whom it may hereafter have a tendency to excite to good and honourable deeds. Indeed, I have often thought, such like records might be very useful in families ; whether the subjects of them were good or bad. A lighthouse may serve equally the purpose of leading you into a haven, or deterring you from a rock. I have the pleasure, however, to reflect, that my three ancestors, (beyond whom I can obtain no family anecdotes,) were all beacons of the former kind."

The original manuscript was taken to America by John Bernard, and the copy was left in the possession of his father, who made a few alterations and some additions, especially that of the Preface to the Memoirs ; and it is from this manuscript, now in the possession of Charles Bernard Gilpin, Esq., of Edinburgh, grandson of the author, that the work has been printed, his spelling, abbreviations, and punctuation, being rigidly adhered to.

Just as this work is issuing from the press, I have been favoured with the perusal of some letters from the Rev. Wm. Gilpin to his little grandson, William, son of the Rev. Wm. Gilpin then of Cheam, but afterwards of

Pulverbach. The powers of fascination possessed by the author are as abundantly manifested in this difficult style of composition as in any of his other works, especially the faculty of fixing the attention of his little reader by stories of natural history, with a moral as instructive, but scarcely so intrusive, as those of the fables of *Æsop*. I think these letters are well worthy of being printed.



AUTHOR'S PREFACE TO THE MEMOIRS.

Vicar's hill July 7. 1791.

I have often thought it might be of great use in a family, to keep a record of some of y^e most deserving persons, that have adorned it. Such a family-monument might both preserve many amiable characters, w^h might otherwise be lost ; & also raise a kind of emulation in succeeding generations. Mere tradition seldom carries us beyond a great grandfather ; and of him but little descends to us from that uncertain source.

That y^e remembrance therefore of some excellent persons of our family might not be lost to their posterity, but remain among them as examples, I have taken upon me to collect, & put together, y^e following memoirs.

The life of Bernard Gilpin, extracted from Br Carlton's account of him, I have already given y^e public. This pious, and very respectable man lived in the reign of Elizabeth. Since that time, no doubt, have lived many worthy persons of the family ; whose virtues deserve to be remembred. But for want of some family-record, they are all now lost. Scarce any circumstance, relating to any of them, except their names, & date in a family-pedigree, at this time exists.

WILL: GILPIN.



MEMOIRS
OF
THE GILPIN FAMILY.

DR. RICHARD GILPIN.

The first person of whom any remembrance is preserved was the great grandfather of the present generation, whose name was Richard Gilpin. He was born in the year 1623,* the year, in which Charles I. came to the crown. He was the son of a younger brother, and being born to no estate, applyed the first years of his life to the study of physic. But feeling a stronger inclination to divinity, he laid aside all thoughts of practising as a physician, & changing entirely the course of his studies, he took his degrees in divinity ; but at what university I find no account.

At the conclusion of the civil war, the great question between presbytery & episcopacy was decided in favour of the former, which became the national establishment.

D^r. Gilpin had always been inclined to presbytery, tho' with the greatest moderation : & being now fully determined to enter into the ministry, he took orders, & during the usurpation, was presented to the rectory of Greystock in Cumberland.

Here he lived amidst all the enthusiasm of the times, untouched by the general contagion. The high notions of church power, which Archb^r Laud had dictated, and which had been carried to a very offensive height, were greatly disgusting to him, as they appeared wholly opposite to the

* "October 23, 1625, Richard son of Isaac Gilpin of Strickland Kettle baptised." Kendal Register. (Memoir by the Rev. A. B. Grosart.)

simplicity, & gentle spirit of Christianity. On the other hand, he was as much disgusted with the violence & hypocritical canting of the prevailing party; & could by no means ever be wrought on to sign the *solemn league, & covenant*. He was very averse also to many of the practices among the ministers of those times. It was usual with them, for instance, to require from every person, before he was admitted to the communion, a particular account of the exact time when his conversion took place. Dr Gilpin always considered this as a very improper requisition, and therefore omitted it.

But tho', on the whole, in church matters, he was inclined to presbytery, he was highly dissatisfied with the usurpation of Cromwell; as indeed all sober people generally were, of whatever party, or religious opinion: and a general discontent ran thro' the nation. An opportunity however soon fell out, which gave vent to these silent murmurrs. In the year 1655, Cromwell dissolved his refractory parliament, & the members of the house, retiring to their several counties, spread every where such new matter of discontent, that measures were no longer observed. Men were levied in many places against the usurper; & a general rising was expected. But Cromwell, who had his eyes in all places, soon dispersed every insurrection, as it made its appearance. It was at that time he sent his Major-generals throughout the kingdom to punish with fines, & proscriptions, all delinquents.

Among the families ruined by the severity of these military magistrates, was Mr. Gilpin of Kentmere-hall, near Kendall, in Westmoreland. He was the head of y^e family, and lived reputably on an estate, which had been in the hands of his ancestors from the days of King John. It seems probable he had taken an active part against Cromwell, in the king's life-time: but his affairs being composed, he lived quietly, till these new disturbances broke out, on Cromwell's violent measures with the parliament. Having

join^d in an unsuccessful insurrection, he became a marked man, & was obliged to provide for his safety as he could. To avoid a sequestration, he gave up his estate in a kind of trust-mortgage to a friend, & went abroad. There he dyed; but in a time of quiet, his heir not being able to get hold of the proper deeds to recover the estate, it was totally lost to y^e family.*

In the mean time, Dr Gilpin lived quietly at Greystock concerning himself only with his own parish, and lamenting those public evils, w^h he could not remove. His posterity may regret, they have so few anecdotes of his ministry. It might have furnished many excellent lessons.† He was a learned man, & a laborious pastor. The only remains I know of his pastoral care, is a sermon, which he preached at Keswick, before an assembly of the clergy of those parts, & which he printed at their request.‡ The following is a short extract from it; which may give his posterity some

* For a more detailed account of this unfortunate transaction, see Note in Pedigree, under George son of William.

It was not unusual during the Wars of the Roses, for combatants, engaged on either side, wishing to preserve their estates from forfeiture, to convey them to trustees of their own kin or connection of the opposing faction. George seems to have adopted this device with very unfortunate results.

† Our information as to the period of his incumbency, relates almost entirely to the trouble which he had with the rapidly increasing Quaker body. I would not be understood to speak disparagingly of that community, whose services in the cause of freedom of thought and worship ought ever to be remembered; but whoever reads the accounts of the scandalous defamations which Henry Winder of Hutton John, in the Parish of Greystoke, had to undergo from some professed and active members of that Society, as narrated in "The Spirit of Quakerism by Henry Winder 1696," (a remarkably rare work), "The Life of Henry Winder by the Rev. George Benson D.D.", and "The Postscript to the Rev. Samuel Audland's Funeral Sermon on the death of John Noble 1708," will be astonished at the wickedness of some members, who, ultimately, were prevailed upon by the body, partially to withdraw their vile assertions.

Though the affair alluded to did not culminate till after Gilpin's residence at Greystoke had ceased, yet the troubles commenced previous to his removal.

‡ The Temple Re-built. A Discourse on Zachary 6, 13. Preached at a general Meeting of the Associated Ministers of the County of Cumberland at Keswick, May 19. By Richard Gilpin, Pastor of the Church at Graistock in Cumberland. London, Printed by E. T. for Luke Fawne, at the Parrot, in Paul's Churchyard, and are to be sold by Richard Scott, Bookseller in Carlisle. 1668.

idea of his mode of preaching, very different from that of the times he lived in.

" Dream not of ease in an employment of this nature. God, angels, and men have their eyes upon you, to see how you will bestir yourselves. It is your *duty*; not a matter of *courtesy*, which you may do, or hold at pleasure. He that hath commanded you, *εὐτροις εἰπε—**to give yourselves up wholly to these things*, will not take himself *beholden* to you, when you have done your best. God having made the Ox which treadeth out the corn to be the hieroglyphic of *your* profession, he doth thereby teach, that labour and patience are so far from being a disgrace to you, that they are necessary qualifications for the ministry. Opposition I suppose, you all expect, & partly find already. Can any one think otherwise, than that they, who are like bullocks unaccustomed to the yoke, will struggle? Is it a wonder, if they think all bonds, fetters? every restraint to be cruelty; & the dressing of their wounds unsufferable tyranny? But what then? Hath not God called you to oppose the carnal interests, & desires of men? He who thrust into the theatre against the throng of the people rushing out, gave this reason for it, *Hoc in omni vita facere studio*. He thought it the perfection of philosophy to go contrary to the generality of men; & the likeliest way to find out virtue: while Plato shewing himself courteous to all, was thus censured: *Quid illi tribuendum est, qui tot annos in philosophia versatus, nullum hactenus dolore affectit*. You know how to apply this. What a shame would it be, if we who have better instructions, greater obligations, and sure promises of help, should give off with the excuse of the sluggard, *There is a lion in the way*. Let us not fear. Difficulties there will be, but they are only difficulties to those, who do their work negligently. Be courageous, & faithful, & God will make the rough ways plain before you."

After the restoration, when episcopacy again took the lead, the presbyterian party made what stand they were able. But the act of uniformity passed, & was executed with rigour. Dr Gilpin notwithstanding his moderation, could not subscribe it in all its parts; & therefore resigned his

benefice, trusting God for the maintenance of himself & family, which consisted of a wife & five children.

The king and his council however seem to have been apprehensive, lest this vigorous step against the presbyterians might have ill consequences. They were much inclined therefore to compound the matter, at least with some of the leaders of the party : & in this view three or four bishopricks & many inferior dignities in the church were offered to them.

Among others Dr Gilpin was represented to the king as a person highly esteemed in the northern parts of England, and as a man of great moderation. Accordingly in filling up the vacant bishopricks, his name was inserted for the see of Carlisle : and it was not doubted by his friends, but he would get over the few scruples he had to the act of uniformity ; & accept the preferment : for he had always spoken favourably of the church of England ; and considered the line between the two parties, with regard to their *religious sentiments*, as almost an invisible one. But to the surprise even of his nearest friends, he declined the offer : being swayed probably by the indecency of *appearing* to desert his principles from lucrative motives ; which would certainly have injured him in the general opinion of men ; & of course made his influence, in his new station, of little weight. It is somewhat extraordinary, that the Bishoprick of Carlisle, sh^d have been refused by two private clergymen of the same family, for Bernard Gilpin had refused it, when offered him by Elizabeth.

While Dr Gilpin lived at Greystock, he had been tempted by an advantageous offer, to lay out the little fortune he had, on the purchase of the manor of Scaleby-castle in Cumberland. Land was then cheap & often in want of purchasers. As he had not however sufficient to compleat the purchase, he made up the deficiency by a mortgage.

This was the place he chose for his retreat, after he left Greystock, hoping by the little income it produced, and his

own frugality, to be able to maintain his family. His house was one of those old fortresses, which had been a barrier against the Scots. It had always been inhabited, & was in tolerably good condition, before Cromwell reduced a great part of it to ruins ; when he took it from Sir William Musgrave, who held it against a detachment of his troops. The income of a poor outed minister, could not do much to improve it. What he could do however, without much expence he did. He made the house again habitable ; and being of opinion, that planting was the least expensive, & one of the most productive modes of improvement, he planted a great number of trees, around his old castle ; which in after-times gave it an air both of beauty, and dignity.

Here he was solicitous to be of all the service in the country, he could. He administered medical advice among his poor neighbours, who had not the means of better assistance. He administered also to their spiritual wants, calling them on sundays, into a great arched hall in his castle, which he had fitted up as a chapel, & doing every benevolent action among them, which his means allowed. How acceptable his services were among the poor people of those parts, & how much they revered him for wisdom, & sanctity, appears from the superstitious respect they paid him. During many years after his death, it was believed among them, that he *had laid the Devil*, as they phrased it, in a morass not far from his house. It may be hoped, that a change for the better in the manners of the people, gave some credit to the belief.

The Dissenters having now found, they could get nothing from government, beyond a toleration, began to separate every where into assemblies, & chuse pastors of their own.

Among other places, a large congregation united at Newcastle upon Tyne, where they built a handsome meeting-house, and sent an invitation to D^r. Gilpin to be their minister. Tho' he had now taken his measures, & laid

his plan for a life of quiet, & repose ; he accepted their invitation, & as soon as he could settle his affairs at Scaleby, removed with his family to Newcastle.

Here a new scene of life opened before him. Hitherto he had lived in a country retirement, both at Greystock, & at Scaleby, where party prevailed little. But here he was in the midst of a large town, divided by various opinions, where his candor & moderation had an ample field for exercise. In fact, I have heard it said, that his meeting-house was a kind of center of unity among them all. It was frequented as much by churchmen, as dissenters, & they all found here, what was seldom found in the pulpits of those times, their common Christianity preached ; unsullied by the religious contests which every where prevailed. His preaching was extremely pleasing and popular. His subject-matter, his language, his voice, his manner were all engaging ; & made such an impression on the people, as was never worn out, but with the lives of his contemporaries.

In a faithful discharge of his duty, among this grateful people, he spent the remainder of a long life, dying at the age of 74 in the year 1699.*

He left behind him a book printed in his lifetime, intitled *Satan's temptations* ; which was in much esteem ; & still is so. It discovers much good sense, great piety, & a considerable compass of knowledge : but it is written in that mode of formal composition, which was more agreeable to that age, than the present.† He left behind him also two sermons. One of them, preached at a visitation of the clergy held at Keswick, I have already mentioned—the other

* He died at Newcastle Feb. 13, 1699/1700, and was buried on the 16th at the Church of All Saints there. (*Memoirs of Ambrose Barnes*, edited by W. H. D. Longstaffe, *Surtees Socy.*, Vol. 50, p. 143.)

† A new edition of this work was published by James Nicholl of Edinburgh, in the year 1867, with a Prefatory Memoir by the Rev. Alexander Balloch Grosart, in which he has embodied the results of much careful enquiry, and to which I am greatly indebted.

was preached, I believe, before the judges, at Newcastle, but I never saw it.*

Among his other papers was found a treatise of considerable length, prepared, as it seemed, for the press, *On the pleasures of religion*. This M.S. and several other M.S.S. of Dr Gilpin's consisting cheifly of heads, & divisions of sermons, from which he used commonly to preach, fell into the hands of the author of this memoir ; & being deposited in a box with other papers, & placed in the corner of a closet, were attacked by what is commonly called, the *dry damp*, & were almost entirely spoiled. If any thing had been interposed between the bottom of the box, and the floor, so as to have suffered the air to circulate, the mischeif had been prevented.†

After Dr Gilpin's death, his widow retired, as her husband had wished, with her family to Scaleby-castle. Great part of the mortgage had, by this time, been payed off ; and shee, by her care, & prudent management still lessened the incumbrance.‡ It is probable he had lived upon his income at Newcastle ; & left the estate to disincumber itself.

Of the children Dr Gilpin left behind him, little can be said, except of the eldest son. One went into the Navy ;

* It was preached before Judge Twisselton and Serg. Bernard at Carlisle, September the 10th, Anno 1660 ; and published at Newcastle upon Tyne, 1700 ; so that its composition may be said to have been the last fruits of his Rectorship, as its publication was the last work of his life.

Besides these, there were printed three other works from his pen, of two of which it may suffice to give the leading titles—"The Agreement of the Associated Ministers of Cumberland & Westmerland," and "A Sermon on the death of the Revd Mr Timothy Manlove." His Inaugural Thesis on obtaining his Diploma, "De Hysterica Passione," is dedicated, "Caleberrimo et virtute maxime conspicuo viro Gulielmo Brisco de Crofton, in Comitatu Cumbriae Armigero, Socero suo venerando, hanc disputationem Inauguralem observantiae Signum offert et inscribit Richardus Gilpin."

† Charles Bernard Gilpin, the author's grandson, says in a communication to the Revd Mr Grosart, "Nevertheless my mother kept the fragments all the days of her life with great veneration."

‡ The following extract from the Broughton Register shows that Richard Gilpin's widow died when on a visit to her daughter and namesake :—

"Madam Susanna Gilpin departed this Life on Tuesday Jan. 18 abt 11 a Clock at night and interred on Friday following being Jan. 21st 1714/15."

& was killed, or dyed young. Another whose name was John, was a reputable merchant at Whitehaven, where he made a considerable fortune in the Virginia trade. He was esteemed an honest man ; but other particulars of his character I never heard : nor have I met with any circumstances relating to the remainder of the family.*

* The precise period at which Gilpin quitted Greystoke, and the exact sequence of the events narrated, are scarcely given with accuracy in the text, much less by any other author. That Richard Gilpin held Greystoke up to Sept. 10, 1660, is clear from his having preached the Assize Sermon at Carlisle on that day. It was either immediately previous to this date, or very soon after, that he was offered the Bishoprick of Carlisle, for Sterne was consecrated Dec. 2nd, 1660 ; and the following extract from the Greystoke Register, kindly furnished me by the Rev. Thomas Lees, Vicar of Wreay, proves that Gilpin must have vacated that Rectory in favour of Wm. Morland, who had been ejected during the protectorate, at the date given, "Anno Regni Caroli Secundi &c decimo tertio Annoq. dom. 1660/1 Mensis Februarii 2 was William Hodgson of Little Blencow chosen Parrish Clarke of Graystocke by William Morland Rector." Gilpin retired to Scaleby, where, however, he could not have remained long, as it is clear from a passage in the Memoirs of Ambrose Barnes, p. 142, that he had been officiating in Newcastle previous to the passing of the Five Mile Act in 1665.

Although there has been some difference of opinion on this point, I do not think that he had, previous to taking his degree at Leyden, July 6, 1676, any medical qualification, because it is stated on the same authority that I have just quoted, p. 154, that "Dr Gilpin was greatly beholden to Dr Tonstall for his improvement in physic after his coming to Newcastle." Of course his early training would enable him to avail himself of the facilities now at his disposal. It must be remembered that the maiden name of Richard Gilpin's mother was Ann Tonstall, and as Dr. T. attended Gilpin's Chapel, the latter may, in more ways than one, have naturally become the doctor's successor.

Edmund Sandford, in his Account of the Families of Cumberland, the original MS. of which is in the Library of the Dean and Chapter of Carlisle, writes with unusual virulence of Richard Gilpin ;—"A quondam preacher of the fatal Plament and his wife Mr Briscoe's daughter of Crofton brethren of confusion in their brains : knew what they wold not have but knew not what they wold have if they might choose." A little moral obliquity in one of the right opinions does not particularly move the old gossip—"He is a brave Monsir, a gentil gallant, a mettled man, a great horse cowper, a noted gamester, &c" ; and the passage I have extracted (not quoted for the first time) is the only instance of ill temper he manifests, except when he mentions Oliver Cromwell.

WILLIAM GILPIN, ESQ.

William the eldest son of Dr Gilpin,* was intended for the law, & sent to the inns of court ; from whence his father had the satisfaction of hearing very pleasing accounts of his conduct, abilities, & application. By the time he was called to the bar, he had obtained that sort of character, from w^h it was easy to foresee, he would make a distinguished figure in his profession. He had not however the ambition of looking forward to the honours of the robe. He chose rather a quiet, domestic life. Having finished his studies therefore, he retired to his native country ; and fixed himself at Whitehaven, where he practised his profession. Here he soon fell into good business : He attended the northern circuit—was employed in most of the causes of any consequence ; & was soon considered as one of the ablest lawyers in those parts.

At Whitehaven he married a young Lady—a relation of his own, of the name of Fletcher—the daughter & co-heiress with a younger sister, of Henry Fletcher Esq^r of Tallantyre in Cumberland.† *Fletcher*, in the northern lan-

* Ambrose Barnes and Dr Gilpin “placed out their sons at the Inns of Court together,” and it is curious to note that whilst William Gilpin became Recorder of Carlisle, his fellow student was contemporaneously Recorder of Newcastle on Tyne, and also of Berwick on Tweed. (See Memoirs of Ambrose Barnes, p. 142.)

† Mary, the eldest daughter of Henry Fletcher, Esq., of Tallentire Hall, and his wife Mary, the daughter of William Brisco of Crofton, and sister of Richard Gilpin’s wife, Susanna Brisco, was, I learn from “The History of the Congregational Church of Cockermouth, by W. Lewis, Cockermouth,

guage, signifies *Archer*; w^h name such of the family took, as were transplanted into the south of England : as *M^r. Todd* in the north, became *M^r. Fox* in the south ; & *M^r. Bracken*, *M^r. Fern*.

Sir John Lowther was at that time the greatest man in Cumberland. To him belonged those extensive works, which supplied Ireland with coal. He was a man of good character ; & very much esteemed in the county which he had always represented in parliament. As he resided at Whitehaven, he very soon became acquainted with M^r. Gilpin's merit ; & was indeed the first person, who brought him forward in life. His attachment to him grew more, & more into esteem ; insomuch that not only in his law-business, but in all his other concerns, M^r. Gilpin was his principall adviser. The following letter, Sir John, on his death-bed, dictated to him when he was able only to add in his own hand, the conclusion & his initials. I transcribe it merely to shew the value he had for M^r. Gilpin.

Whitehaven Nov^r. 7. 1705.

Sir,

Having had three letters from my son James, I wrote to you yesterday by the Carlisle post, to hasten your coming hither. I have this day another letter, with some papers enclosed, wherein I want your advice, & which will not bear much delay. I know you have much business at home at this time, which may make this hastening your coming inconvenient to you. Let me know by the

1870," "baptised at Tallentire Hall, Dec. 7, 1654," and "admitted to Fellowship Oct. 25, 1672." I have not been able to ascertain the exact date of the marriage ; but by the kindness of Wm. Browns, Esq., of Tallentire Hall, I am enabled to quote the title of a deed bearing date 1st July, 1689. It purports to be a Marriage Settlement, and is between "Henry Fletcher and Mary his wife, William Gilpin and Mary his wife of the First Part, George Larkham and Dorothy his wife (sister of the said Henry Fletcher) of the Second Part, Matthias Partis of the Third Part, and Richard Gilpin, John Brisco and Francis Partis of the Fourth Part." I believe it to be the Marriage Settlement of Matthias Partis, the subsequent owner of Tallentire Hall, and Ann, the younger daughter of Henry Fletcher. It will be perceived that the elder daughter was married anterior to this date.

bearer, whom I send on purpose, when I may expect you ; and if without very much inconvenience to you, I wish it may be in three or four days at farthest.

I am, Your very affect: friend,

J. L.*

For W^m Gilpin Esq:
at Scaleby.

Sir John Lowther left two sons of very different dispositions. The elder was so profuse in his expences & profligate in his manners, that his father was obliged to disinherit him. James, the younger, was as remarkable for his attention to money, as his brother was for spending it. A story is told of him, which shews how very early in life a love of money was engrafted in him. His father made him a good allowance, tho' what he thought only sufficient and proper (for he was then in parliament) to maintain him handsomely. On some occasion afterwards wanting the loan of a few thousand pounds, he wrote to his son James, then in London, to borrow it for him. James, who was always more disposed to lend money, than to borrow, replyed to his father, that if he wanted only so many thousand pounds as he mentioned, he could supply him without inconvenience himself. The prudent young man had already it seems, saved that sum, out of his allowance, & thinking his father's security very good, lent it to him without any scruple. Sir John was rather surprized at his son's economy, & could not help observing on the occasion, that he needed to be under no apprehensions, that James w^d ever dissipate his patrimony. In fact, about forty years after this time, James (then the

* Sir John's Will (a very remarkable document), no doubt drawn up by William Gilpin, had been signed Oct. 8, 1705. He executed a codicil, Decr. 26 of the same year, and it was probably for the purpose of appending this to the original, that Sir John was so desirous to see his friend and legal adviser. William Gilpin witnessed both the original and appended document. Sir John was buried at Saint Bees, Jany 17th 1705/6.

celebrated Sir James Lowther) had the satisfaction to dye the richest commoner in England.*

After Sir John's death his son James continued the same attachment to M^r. Gilpin, only with this difference ; the former considered him as his friend, the latter only as a man who could be useful to him.

Sir James was not singular in his opinion. M^r. Gilpin was considered by all people as a very useful man. Few indeed managed their own affairs, or the affairs of others, with more wisdom, & discretion. He was a *man of business*, in the best sense of the expression. Every way qualified for it, he had good parts,—an excellent judgement—was skilled in his profession— indefatigable in his pursuits—& of un-sullied integrity. Such a man, if he have a benevolent turn of mind (which M^r. Gilpin had in a great degree) will never want employment, & will be continually making new friends by his services. His profession was both the source of considerable emolument to himself ; & of use among his poor neighbours : & as he was in the commission of the peace, he was able on many occasions, to strengthen law by authority.†

* Sir James was first elected a Member of Parliament when he was chosen for Carlisle, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of his second cousin, William Lowther. He was baptized at St. Giles in the Fields, Aug. 5, 1673, and, according to the M.I. in Trinity Church, Whitehaven, died Jany. 2, 1755, aged 81, so that he was only 20 when he became a legislator, and began his accumulations at his banker's. He could scarcely have been more than twenty-seven when this rather unusual sort of transaction, as between father and son, occurred ; for Sir John, by Deeds of Lease and Release dated Feb. 12th & 13th, 1700, settled the estates upon him, to the exclusion of the poor prodigal who has a little entry all to himself at Saint Andrews, Holborn, " 1731. Oct. 7. Sir Christopher Lowder Bart. from Brook Street buried." Though Sir James was parsimonious to a degree, he was no true miser ; for he seems to have been judicious and unstinting in his expenditure on his collieries, with a view to their developement, not only in his own time, but in that of his successors.

† I have been favoured with the following extract from the Minutes of a Court of the Trustees of the Port, Harbour, and Town of Whitehaven, holden Decr 13th 1709, " That Twenty Guineas be paid to William Gilpin for drawing the Harbour Act." This was the Act 7th of Queen Anne (1708), " For Preserving and Enlarging the Harbour of Whitehaven" ; the first obtained, and the basis of all the subsequent ones to the present time.

Early in life he was chosen recorder of Carlisle,* & managed the affairs of that city with so much prudence & general approbation, that he had the entire direction of the corporation ; & more personal interest in the borough, than any other gentleman of the county.

He was also deputy vice-admiral of Cumberland, & county-keeper ; an officer, before the union, of great power : whether the office exist now, I know not.

Thus qualified he took a very leading part in all public business ; & had great weight in guiding the opinions of a large county in all the interesting questions of those times, before and after the revolution. He knew how to distinguish between a real invasion of liberty & religion, and the factious sentiments of those seditious people, who either hope to gain from the confusion of the country ; or laying down some enthusiastic system, are desirous of trying new experiments ; & of substituting their own chimerical schemes in the room of institutions, which have stood the test of ages—and which are suited to the country & the country to them. To the government therefore M^r: Gilpin was always a steady friend, tho' in the person of James II, by whom he thought liberty really invaded, he had opposed the king ; & was always warm against the pretensions of the exiled family.† When the rebellion broke out in the year 1715,

* This is scarcely quite correct. The Register of Saint Cuthbert's, Carlisle, quoted by Mr R. S. Ferguson in his paper on the Carlisle Registers, (Trans. Cumb & West Arch. Socy Vol 2 p 352,) states, "John Aglionby Esqr Recorder of this City buried within the Church March 30th 1717/8." The Corporation Records for this period are imperfect, but no doubt Gilpin, who was then 60 years of age, succeeded Aglionby, and it is very probable that he may have been appointed Deputy Recorder many years before.

+ As Steward to James Lowther Esq^r, he presided at the Court Leet of the Manor of St Bees on the 14th October 1715, when the following decisions were recorded.

"Wee doe order that a Strong watch & ward well armed wth fire Arms & Swords be Constantly Kept wthin the Town both Night & day from tomorrow at 6 : in the Evening till further order vizi —

That 8 : men be found kept Constantly at the Watch-house on the Key : That Two Ships find each 4 : of those men in their Turns abt begining at the first in Turn —

no gentleman in the county took a more active part in opposing it: & by his means cheifly, with the assistance of the Bhp of Carlisle, who was his relation,* 12000 men were mustered on the high grounds about Penrith, consisting of the whole *posse comitatus* of Cumberland. But tho' the gentlemen of the county could raise men, they could not create soldiers. They hoped indeed only to make their raw troops stand their ground on the hills, to intimidate the rebels, & give them a check: but even this could not be effected. The sight of the enemy at once dispersed them. Mr. Gilpin often used to talk of this event as one of the greatest mortifications he had ever met with: & they must sympathize with him, who have ever felt the pang

That 12 men be found by the Town Every night 4: to be placed at Bransty 4: at Plumblands Lane end & 4 at the Head of the Town, to watch from 6: at Night to 6 in ye morning; & 6 Every day 2 at Each place to watch from 6 in ye morning to 6 at Night & Every Inhabitant to find a man in their Turn by the Direction of ye Constable —

That the watch at the Key be Constantly Sett at Sun-Setting & to waite till Sun Risen —

That the Watch do take up all Strowling & loose Suspicious prsons who shall be found in ye Streets or abt ye Key at Unseasonable times & to keep them at the Gaurd house till Next Morning —

That every Master of a Ship be Excused from Watching or finding men at ye Town Watch —

That a Master of one of the Shippes as they shall fall in Turn shall be Capt of the Gaurd & shall attend the watch During his Turn & if the two Mats canot Agree to divide it by Lott and that that Capt shall have the Governt of ye whole watch both at the Key & in ye Town for ye night Time —

That the Constable shall Sumon the Town Watch & See that they be duly releived & that he begin at the Head of the Town —

That the Whole watch be Sett Tomorrow at Night at 6 of the Clock."

He held the office of Steward, being constant in his attendances at the Court Leet notwithstanding his residence at Scaleby, until the year 1721, when his son Richard succeeded him:

* William Gilpin's mother was Susannah, daughter of William Brisco. The mother of William Nicolson, the Bishop of Carlisle, was Mary daughter of John Brisco, William's son and successor at Crofton. Notwithstanding this relationship, we learn from some letters in the Correspondence of the Bishop, (Vol 1 p.p. 170, 177, & 178,) that he thought it not unbecoming to manifest one so much respected as Gilpin his usual dictatorial, if not acrimonious, humour,

of being robbed in a single moment of the fruits of a long pursuit.*

But tho' M^r Gilpin was in a peculiar manner qualified as a man of business, & shone in that light perhaps as much as most men in his station, he was equally respectable in private life, & amiable in his family.

He was an excellent economist. At his first settling in the world, he was under many difficulties. His father left him his estate; but as he left also a widow, & a large family, it was greatly incumbered.

After his mother's death he left Whitehaven, & lived on his own estate; w^{ch} by his frugality & good management he increased by several valuable purchases, particularly those of High-field-moor, & the great tythes of Crosby.

Amidst all his business both of a public, and private nature, he still had time for amusing, and ingenious pursuits. As an antiquarian he was much esteemed; & corresponded with Gibson, Horsley, & other noted antiquarians of those days†; whose researches he assisted with many materials. Indeed the situation of Scaleby-castle, close by the Roman

* Patten pp. 83 & 84, and Rae pp. 279 & 280, in their respective "Histories of the Rebellion," give accounts of this stampede of November 2nd 1715, of which the former, who was active on the rebel side, was a witness. He had been Curate of Penrith. Henry, Viscount Lonsdale, was present, and finding only 20 men left with him, thought it prudent to decamp also. Thomas Brougham of Scales Hall, Receiver General of Cumberland & Westmorland, was Sheriff this year, and, as such, was in command at this burlesque on Thermopylae. What became of him history does not state. He died the following year.

† The assistance he afforded to Bishop Gibson is mentioned further on. Besides the connexions he had with the eminent antiquaries named, he was the friend and correspondent of Ralph Thoresby, who in his Diary Vol 1, p 270, writes "We walked to Sir John Lowther's stately house at the Flat, where we were most obligingly entertained by William Gilpin, Esqr (the doctor's son, of Newcastle,) a most ingenious gentleman, who showed us the pictures and curiosities of the house and gardens, wherein is placed the original famous altar, GENIO LOCI, (mentioned by Camden, p 770,) for which Sir John gave twenty pounds. This ingenious gentleman, who is an accurate historian and virtuoso, presented me out of his store of natural curiosities, with a very fair piece of Marchesites, and obliged me extremely with his pleasing converse, till pretty late at night. In the morning, rose pretty early, yet prevented of too hasty a journey by the most obliging Mr. Gilpin, who afforded us his acceptable company till we left the town."

wall furnished him with several opportunities, both of collecting antiquities, of wh^{ch} he had a considerable number,* & of examining various circumstances wth regard to the ancient state of the northern counties.

But the great amusement of his leisure, was painting. In his day the art of painting was at a very low ebb in England. There were few pictures ; & fewer masters. Charles the I. was a man of real taste. Under him the art of painting flourished for a while ; but with him it dyed. Lely could paint ; & hath left behind him some good pictures : but Kneller accommodated his pencil merely to an undistinguishing age. He was careless himself ; & taught the artists of his day, that the more slovenly they painted the more money they should acquire.

If M^r. Gilpin had been a man of large fortune he would have been a great encourager of the art of painting. It appeared so from the little he did. At Whitehaven lived a painter of the name of Read ; a man of little note, where nothing could be less esteemed than his art. He wrought cheap ; & was employed chiefly in daubing colours on the heads & sterns of ships. M^r. Gilpin easily saw he had a genius above such employment. He engaged him therefore in copying a tolerable picture, or two, which he found in Sir John Lowther's house at Whitehaven ; and was surprised at his succeeding so well. He carried him afterwards to Scaleby-castle ; where he kept his pencil long engaged in landscape, portrait & history. In the two last mentioned branches of his art, he did but little ; & it had been better, if he had done less. But where he had easy nature before him, he was often happy in his imitations. Tho' he knew nothing of the artificial composition of landscape, he touched a tree, or a piece of foreground, with spirit ; & in flower-pieces he rather excelled.

M^r. Gilpin not only employed this artist ; but wrought

* See note on a subsequent page.

under him. At least, he got from him the method of handling a pencil ; & mixing colours in a pallet. I have seen several little pieces of his painting which were wonderfully well considering the mere scraps of leisure, he had to employ on this amusement. It plainly appear'd, how great a master he might have been, if he had been bred to the profession ; & had had the full means of improvement. The notice however he had taken of Read, brought that neglected artist into some esteem ; & there was hardly a house in Whitehaven, whose master could afford it, which had not a picture, or two painted in pannels, over doors or chimnies by his hand.*

But M^r Gilpin still appeared in a more amiable light, as a master of a family, than either as a man of business, or a man of taste. His wife was a very amiable woman ; & the constant endeavour of both to please each other, made their marriage uncommonly happy. They had a large family, among whom they lived only like an elder brother, & sister. It was the endeavour of all to make each other happy ; and I have often heard that visitors used to call the family at Scaleby-castle, the happiest, & pleasantest family they had ever known. The parents, tho' strictly religious, encouraged innocent chearfulness ; and the children were all well-disposed. No mirth was desired by the young people

* A notice of this artist is given in Hutchinson's History of Cumberland, Vol. 2, pp. 80 & 81, q. v. To that notice I may add, that the first record I find of his residence at Whitehaven, is the following entry in the Register of St. Nicholas's Church ; "1702. May 17, Matthias Reed & Elliz Hind married." He appears to have resided in Cross Street and Irish Street. A diminishing few of his works may still be found in some of the houses of Whitehaven. Several portraits, probably replicas, of William III, from his easel once existed ; but I only know now of the one at Holker, which fortunately escaped the fire. His bird's eye view of Whitehaven in 1738, engraved by Richard Parr, is well known ; and other paintings by him of this town and Parton exist. He was a liberal contributor to Trinity Church, and his monument in the Church yard there, kept so carefully painted by his brethren of the brush that it has become quite as difficult to decipher as it would have been from natural decay, records that he "died Novbr ye 8th 1747 aged 78 years," and that "his wife Elizabeth died April ye 2nd 1748 in ye 79th year of her age." His portrait, by himself, is in the possession of a descendant,

beyond the bounds of propriety ; & all mirth, within those rules were permitted by the old. The general temper of the family therefore, was *religious cheerfulness*.

A contrast was often drawn between M^r Gilpin, & his younger brother John, a strict presbyterian, the general temper of whose family was *religious severity*. John was an honest, upright & godly man ; but formal, precise & austere. He allowed no innocent amusements in his family. Mirth was antichristian. His children durst not smile before him ; & were hardly suffered to sit down in his presence.*

The amiable society of Scaleby-castle was broken up in the year 1724. M^r Gilpin had attended the assizes at

* Thomas Story the Quaker, a native of Justice Town, near Carlisle, and an intimate acquaintance of the family, visited the brothers at Whitehaven on two different occasions ; naturally, the severity of the younger brother's disposition falling in with Story's own rigid views of life, would, if he had mentioned it at all, which he does not, have elicited commendation. The first visit was in the year 1715—"On the 2nd of 3rd month I went to Whitehaven and alighted at an Inn ; from whence letting my old Friend and School-fellow, John Gilpin a Merchant in that Place, know of my being there, he quickly came to me, and kindly invited me to his House, to take up my Quarters whilst I staid there ; which I readily and kindly accepted, for I always loved him ; And, after, I had paid a visit to his Brother, a Counsellor, and Justice of the Peace, (under whom I made my first beginnings of the Study of the Law) where I was very respectfully received, we went home to his House ; and his Wife, being a discreet religious Person in their Way, (being Presbyterians of the most moderate sort) I was very easy and free. They were sons of Dr Richard Gilpin, of Scaleby Castle, in Cumberland, a famous and learned Physician, and also a Superintendant among that People in Oliver's Days. On the third I went to the Meeting at Westside (or Crossfield) about three miles from Whitehaven ; where came John Gilpin, his wife, their Presbyterian Minister, (Thomas Dixon) Justice Gilpin's eldest Son, a very discreet youth, and several others of that sort, and also of the Church of England." The second visit was two years subsequently. "On the 16th of tenth month I went to Whitehaven and alighting at an Inn had an Invitation by Justice Gilpin to lodge at his House ; which accordingly I accepted of, his Brother John's House, where I was before, being unfit, because of the measles in his Family. We were courteously and freely entertained there ; and had a meeting at our friend John Nicholson's, about a mile off ; to which came the Justice's Wife, eldest son and another, and two Daughters, John Gilpin his Brother and many others of the Town, though it was a very raw, wet, dirty Day. I returned that Evening to Justice Gilpin's, and met with nothing but continued and open Friendship. . . . The next day but one I dined with my old & hearty Friend John Gilpin and his Family, being in better order than before. I lodged there also that night."—Journal of the Life of Thomas Story, pp. 470 & 593-4,

Carlisle, where he felt himself indisposed. When he got home, he complained of a drowsiness, which was not common with him. It hung upon him, three or four days, and ended in a fit of apoplexy, which carried him off in the 67th year of his age.*

He was rather a short man, and somewhat inclined to corpulency. His death changed Scaleby-castle into a house of mourning: for he was beloved by every member of it. His widow from the time of his death, gave up all the enjoyments of society. She was well left; had her choice of what apartments she pleased; and of what furniture she chose; a coach & horses; & a handsome jointure to support her. But she had comfort in nothing. A melancholy gloom hung over her; from which, tho' she lived many years, she never recovered.

Among some family papers remain a few letters, w^h M^r Gilpin had written on particular occasions; and of which he had thought it proper to keep copies. They are on no very important subjects; but I shall transcribe them in these family memoirs, as they will tend still more to illustrate the character of this worthy man, to his descendants, to whom only it is of concern.

The two first letters are on a subject in which M^r Gilpin was greatly interested. Sir John Lowther, who was his first

* By the kindness of the Rev. J. H. G. McCall, I am enabled to append the following extract from the Scaleby Register, showing that William Gilpin had become a member of the Church of England, and no doubt was mainly instrumental in forwarding the repairs mentioned:—"June 7, 1724. The same day Publick Notice was given by the Churchwardens for a General Meeting of the Parishioners at this Church on the 14th of June instant in the afternoon after Evening Service to take order for the repairs of this Church and for other matters concerning the Parish." At the meeting held pursuant to the above notice, "Mr Gilpin taking notice yt the Register Book belonging to ye Parish was only of paper and having been ill kept was much defaced made a present to the Parish of this Book for a Register and recommends it to Mr Hewet the present Rector & to his successors to assist the Churchwardens for ye Time being in Entering and Registering the Affairs of the parish." This Register, made of parchment, still exists in excellent condition, but the old one has disappeared. Almost the earliest entry in the book he presented to the parish is, "Will. Gilpin Esqr Barrister at Law Recorder of ye City of Carlisle Buried Aug 17th 1724."

& sincerest friend, knew not what to do with his eldest son. What a good education could do for him, had been done, which was finished at one of the inns of court, with a view to qualify him by a little knowledge of law, to manage his own large affairs, when they sh^d come into his possession. But it was to no purpose. He was alive only to pleasure, and became so expensive, that his father knew not what to do with him ; and at length disinherited him.* However before things came to this extremity, Sir John resolved to try one method more. M^r Gilpin was then a young man, & lived at Whitehaven ; and it was possible, Sir John thought, that his pleasant manners might have some weight with his son. His being upon the spot also, where his fortune lay, he hoped might be some restraint upon the young man. He greatly wished therefore that M^r Gilpin w^atch take him into his house. Sir John however did not immediately apply to M^r Gilpin himself ; but wrote to Lord Lonsdale, who was then in the country, desiring he would sound M^r Gilpin on the subject. Lord Lonsdale was one of the most respectable characters in the north of England ; and was as likely as any man to persuade M^r Gilpin to a thing he did not much incline to. Lord Lonsdale however would not take a refusal on the spot ; but desired him to consider the matter again, and give him his thoughts in writing at Lowther-hall, where he then resided. This preface will make the following letters intelligible ; and shew the good sense, and discretion with which they are written.

To Sir John Lowther bar^t

Whitehaven July 26. 1696

Sir,

My Lord Lonsdale has acquainted me with y^r intentions concerning M^r Lowther. Some things relating to this place, and the country adjoining seemed necessary to be taken into consideration

* See pages 12 & 13.

in forming a determination of that moment. What occurred to me, at that time, I offered to his Lordship's thoughts. Some of the most material things, were ;

That M^r. Aglionby's eldest son (of whose character I suppose you are sufficiently apprized) is frequently in this neighbourhood.*

That many gentlemen of the county are addicted to game.

That if any remarkable miscarriage should happen in this place, it might perhaps betray M^r. Lowther to the contempt of those people, whose dependency will never be preserved in any tolerable degree, without a respectful opinion of his person & conduct.

That if he find himself under any temptation to enlarge the allowance you make him, he has an opportunity here to make those contracts, wh^{ch} may be very prejudicial to the estate hereafter ; or to himself, if you guard the estate by a settlement.

That this country doth not afford those innocent diversions, which are to be found in other places & wh^{ch} are some preservatives against those diversions that are irregular, & hurtful.

That the circumstances of my profession, (being the same with his own), my age, & the relation I am under to yourself, will render any advice I can insinuate, less forcible, than what comes from a person whose function, years, and independence create a reverence.

Some things of this nature I discoursed with my Lord : but since a business of this importance was not to be determined upon sudden thoughts, his Lordship desired me to deliberate farther upon it, and give him an account by letter of the result. I must confess I find it a matter of great difficulty. And tho' there are perhaps some considerations which may incline your honour to think it the best course that you can fix, yet I cannot help being extreamly apprehensive that it will not answer the end that you propose. I am

&c W. G.

* John, the only son of the Recorder, was ultimately, like his friend Christopher Lowther, disinherited. He and his wife, Dinah, daughter of the Rev. — Stodart, died in the Isle of Man, where no monument exists to the memory of either. Henry Aglionby, their son, Member for Carlisle, 1721 to 1727, and builder of the Nunnery, succeeded his grandfather. The Recorder's wife was Barbara, daughter of John Patrickson of Calder Abbey, and this connexion probably brought her son John frequently into the neighbourhood of Whitehaven. His uncle sold that estate.

To the Lord Viscount Lonsdale.

Whitehaven July 29. 1696.

My Lord,

The more I think of the matter, which your Lordship has been pleased to propose to me concerning M^r Lowther, the more difficult I find it; there are some considerations which may incline your Lordship to think it best, that he come hither; yet I cannot help being extremely apprehensive, that it will not answer the end proposed.

Your Lordship knows that this country being destitute of those innocent pleasures which are to be found elsewhere, must needs throw a person of M^r Lowther's complexion upon the pursuit of those which are irregular & hurtful. And M^r Aglionby's frequency in this neighbourhood will abundantly furnish the occasion. There are opportunities of lewdness every where, and this little town can already give as modish proofs of it, as the greatest.—And if M^r Lowther looks upon his abode, *where he is*, as a confinement, he is too sensible to receive a satisfaction from a bare change of place. I can easily apprehend, that your Lordship means such a conduct should be observed towards him here, that he may not find himself under any government, but that of his own reason: And yet since he must nevertheless know himself to be still under observation it will give him the same uneasiness here, that he complained of already at Newport-Pannal; & perhaps more, because of the relation I am under to his father.

I must also own to your Lordship, that besides the doubts I have of the success, I am swayed by the consideration I have of the difficulty, as it relates to myself. I know the establishment of a considerable branch of your Lordship's family depends in some measure on the success of this affair; and I have inclination sufficient to be serviceable to the utmost of my power; but it requires a very nice conduct, & I have reason to fear that notwithstanding my best endeavours, I may fail of the prudence necessary. And besides, if I do my duty to the father, 'tis highly probable I must bear the disgust of the son; & if I take the opportunity to indulge the inclinations of the son, I shall deserve the displeasure of

the father : and it is not impossible, after all, but that I must leave both under dissatisfaction.

Your Lordship will be pleased also to allow me the freedom to observe to you, how this matter will affect my family. Your Lordship knows my circumstances. My little table is soon spread ; & I feed upon contentment. But I must not treat M^r Lowther so philosophically. And tho' I doubt not but Sir John would make a good allowance ; yet I must by no means (with modesty) expect that he should do it to that degree *for one*, as might enable me to support the charge of altering the methods of a *whole family*.

After all, my Lord, I determine nothing. If you think this course adviseable, I submit myself to your pleasure.—I must confess unwillingly, & with reluctance, because of the difficulties I foresee it will involve me in—but most chearfully, if therein I give your Lordship satisfaction, and may but hope, that my endeavours will in any degree prove serviceable.

I am &c

W : G.—

Queen Mary's death, at the end of the year 1694, revived the hopes of the Jacobites, and the whole party however dispersed, were in commotion. While the most furious & desperate attempted to assassinate the King ; the leaders had influence to engage Louis XIV. to make preparation for an invasion. The Duke of Berwick came into England to concert measures with the disaffected—troops were drawn down to the coasts of France ; and ships were provided. But the vigilance of the ministry defeated all attempts. Admiral Russel put to sea with 50 sail of the line ; and tacking backwards and forwards along the French coast, effectually blocked up all their harbours. In the mean time the conspiracy was discovered in England ; and Sir Geo: Barclay, Sir John Fenwick & many others, were taken into custody.—M^r Gilpin had his share in the bustle of these busy times, & was much depended upon for preserving quiet in the north of England. I find two of his letters, written at this time, to different lords of the council.

To his grace the Duke of Shrewsbury, secretary of state.

Whitehaven March 12. 1695.

I have the honour to receive your grace's commands in your letter of the 7th of this month, for securing M^r Bullock. I have examined him, but he owns nothing, that is worth your grace's trouble to be informed of. This day I send him to Carlisle.

I beg leave to make use of this opportunity to acquaint your grace further, that M^r Patrickson & I have secured ten horses of good value, belonging to M^r Curwen of Workington in this county. There are so many concurrent circumstances of suspicion, that we thought it absolutely necessary at this time. But having by this post, given a full narrative hereof to my Lord Carlisle, I shall not presume further to trouble your grace,

I am Your Grace's &c

W. G.—

To the right Hon^{ble} Sir J. L. bart one of his majesty's most hon^{ble} privy council,

Whitehaven Ap: 8. 1696

Sir,

I beg leave to acquaint your honour, that about a fortnight ago, a proper well-built man, wearing his own hair, dark-coloured, inclining to grey, & of a good length, attempted to pass from this port to Ireland. Upon his examination, so many circumstances concurred, which induced a suspicion, that I thought it necessary to have a guard upon him, till he c^d give a better account of himself. He called himself Joseph Griffeth & pretended to be a butcher, and to come from Oxford. I wrote to the recorder there, & next post expect an account of him. I am not sure, but he might be an honest man (tho' a very indiscreet one) so I allowed him all convenient liberty ; w^h he made use of this day sen'night, at night, to attempt an escape. Upon which I was confirmed in my suspicion ; & all people agreeing that there was reason, I forthwith caused the hue and cry to be raised ; & sent away several messengers to secure all the passes of the country ; by w^h means he was retaken upon fresh suit on friday last, at Stavely, & by S^r Daniel Fleming sent

to Appleby goal. I thought it proper to acquaint your honour wth this much at present. If I learen any thing further from Oxford, I shall transmit it to you.*

I am &c. W. G.

The town of Whitehaven was founded by the Lowther family, to whom indeed almost the whole property of it, belonged. Of course they took the lead in the management of all its concerns. Sir John Lowther was not an arbitrary man; nor would M^r Gilpin, who managed his affairs at Whitehaven, have been concerned in any arbitrary measures. But there will always be refractory people every where. M^r Ebenezer Gale, a leading man at Whitehaven, was a person of this description. It was his pleasure to oppose everything, wth Sir John Lowther recommended. On one occasion his violence had nearly occasioned some mischeif in the town. Complaint had been made to Sir John, that the church yard was too much crowded. Accordingly he ordered another piece of ground to be enclosed, and had it conse-

* The Depositions from the Castle of York, edited by Canon Raine (Surtees Society, vol. 40, page 248), indicate, by numerous cases, that Whitehaven was the great port in the north for communicating with Ireland, and a strict watch, it appears, continued to be maintained after these records cease, as they unfortunately do about 1689. These depositions also fully confirm the statement made in the text, that the exiled king had powerful adherents in the locality; and I cannot resist quoting a case which was brought before the Richard Patricker mentioned above, on the 4th of August, 1689, on the information of "Mr John Stevens, quarter-master in Lt Coll. Levyson's troope of dragoons in the Queen's regiment, who saith that on Friday, being in company with Mr Richard Jackson, schoolmaster of St. Bees the said Mr Jackson did suddenly rise upp from his seate, and aske him who he was for. He replied he was for King William; but Mr Jackson said he was for King James. And being aske by this ext. if he knew what he said, Mr Jackson answered he did, and clapeing his hand on the table said he wo'd stand by it soe longe as he had a dropppe of blood in his body. And he further said itt was noe treason to drinke King Jamee' health."

Mr. Jackson saw reason to modify his opinions, for he never became a non-juror; nay, he accepted the Curacy of Saint Bees from the hands of Sir John Lowther, and, subsequently, the Vicarage of Barton from his son Sir James. His portrait was bequeathed to the Vicar of Saint Bees for the time being by his lineal descendant, the Rev. Henry John Todd, Prebend of York, well known for his varied literary attainments. The rubicund visage may well be that of a man who, under the influence of the one cup more, might be led to speak too freely. He was, I believe, a most able master.

crated ; and M^t Gale himself had been among those, who acknowledged the necessity of such a measure. But no sooner was it done, than he raised an opposition ; which gave M^t Gilpin an opportunity in the following letter, of shewing his prudence, caution, and independent spirit.

To sir John Lowther bart

Whitehaven Ap^r. 1st 1696.

Sir,

The inclosed I intended to have accompanied with some observations ; but an adventure has happened to-day, which has taken up my time, and a little discomposed my thoughts. I am very sorry, Sir, to tell you any thing w^{ch} may make you uneasy ; or give you occasion to think that I am so in your service.

According to your letter of December 24th last, I discharged the sexton from breaking-ground in the churchyard ; & there has been none buried there since, that I know of. But yesterday at the instigation of M^t Eben: Gale (as I must believe from what followed) I was sollicited with great importunity to give way, that Richard Collins the smith might be buried there. I went to the widow, & with good words prevailed with her to be content to let her husband be buried in the consecrated ground : & it would have been done without difficulty. But that would have been a disappointment to E. G. ; for immediately thereupon (tho he had no relation or concern, with the man ; nor his funeral) he sent a message to the widow, that her husband *should* be buried in the church-yard ; & accordingly he caused a grave to be dug there. I had notice, & caused it to be filled up again. Upon this he used his utmost skill to invite the people to an uproar, telling them, if they would go with him, he would take the shovel ; & see who durst oppose. But some of the company being wiser, spoiled his project by persuading the woman to carry her husband to St Bees.*

April 4. Whilst I was writing on wednesday, abt ten at night an accident prevented my finish^g my letter by that post ; & yesterday has supplied me wth more matter. A labourer's child being to

* "Anno 1696. April 1. Interr'd Richard Collin of Whitehaven."—Register of Saint Bees.

buried* that day, E. G. provided himself with a rabble for his purpose, & was resolved to use violence. I had notice: & being unwilling to be mobbed, & desirous to keep things from coming to an extremity, of wh^t I could not foresee the consequences, I stayed at home and dissembled my knowledge. I had set a mason to make a door out of the church yard into the burial ground: but E. G. has threatened him for doing it without his orders. But this was not all: a libel was pasted in the market place: I have the original; & they who are well acquainted with E. G.'s writing; find his strokes very apparently in it. I send you a stanza; not for the sake of the poetry; but because the first line tells you the true occasion of these extravagances; & what you are to do to prevent them. I shewed y^r order to Mr. John Gale & desired his assistance as a trustee; but he excused himself; and dissuaded the rest.—I am far from complaining, Sir, of your service. I do truely think myself in debt to you; & am ready to obey any commands you give me. But I intreat you will suffer me to observe to your honour that it is hard, when I am engaged in any rough work, that those who are also under obligations to serve you, do not only content themselves to be spectators, but also make what popular commotions they can against me.

I am &c.

W. G.

He alludes to the family of the Gales, who all violently opposed the Lowther interest.†

* "1696 April 3rd William ye son of Richard Beby buried."—Register of St. Nicholas's Church.

† I believe that William Gilpin's immediate predecessor in the Stewardship of the Whitehaven estates was John Gale, father of Ebenezer who made himself so obnoxious, of John just mentioned, and of Elisha who, though not named here, took an equally prominent part in public affairs. Originally, they were Presbyterians, like the Gilpins, but also, like them, some members of the family conformed to the Established Church. John Gale, the father, had been so faithful a servant that Sir John Lowther granted him a portion of the Old Hall, "for and in consideration of the good and faithful service of the said John Gale," to quote the very words of the grant. I know of no reason for the hostility manifested at this early period by Ebenezer Gale; but it is a well-known fact that the relatives of the ex-Vizier always detest his successor. This dispute about the old Church and churchyard continued to ripen until the death of the Rev. Mr. Yates, the first regularly appointed Minister of the old (then the new) Church, June 17th, 1720, when the matter of the right of presentation to the Church, the extent of the churchyard, and other kindred points, became the subject of litigation between a party in the town, of which Ebenezer Gale may almost be said to have been the leader, and Sir James Lowther, in which both sides were very bitter and neither blameless.

M^r: Gilpin, with some other persons, had engaged money in a glass-work ; but hearing there was a probability, that the parliament would lay a tax upon ceals, he wrote to Sir John Lowther on the subject. He insinuates also other considerations of a public nature, which might render such a tax improper. And it is probable these were the reasons, which weighed with the ministry not to bring forward such a tax, for I believe it was not brought into parliament, at least I know the glass-work went forward. This letter appears to me a model of a letter on business. Without omitting any thing, that is necessary, there is not a word too much.

Whitehaven Ap : 13. 1698.

Sir,

the prospect of a coal tax has suspended our designs for a glass-work, till we know the result. If the tax proceed, we are constrained to desist ; and are not a little glad, that we are yet at liberty to retreat, being much better contented to lose the charges we have been at already ; than to go on in an undertaking, wh^{ch} will now require a much larger stock for less advantage.

Sir, it is the universal apprehension of people here, that this tax will affect not only our design ; but all other manufactures, that depend on coal fire, in the highest degree : & that there is cause to fear, that Scotland will profit at our expence. That country abounds with coal. The coal at Ayr, & all along the Clyde, is of the same nature with ours ; and I have been assured by people, well acquainted there, that a great quantity might be got, if they had encouragement by a suitable vent. They have some other materials proper to be manufactured with fire, in equal plenty, and goodness with ours : and what they want may be imported on as easy terms. The advantages we have over them are only accidental, cheifly owing to our shipping, and trade to the plantations, which are subservient to these manufactures. But so great an alteration, as this tax will make ('tis to be feared) will more than balance all these advantages ; and put them on terms of superiority. The improvement of their manufactures, & their collieries will improve their harbours, & increase their shipping, & by degrees let them into other branches

of trade, which at present they are not capable of.* I humbly beg your pardon for this liberty; and am &c.

W. G.

The following letter is written with great delicacy. Mr: G. was then a young man; & from many expressions of friendship from the Lowther family, had expectations of some advantageous appointment, probably in the line of his profession. But whether they had not power to serve him in any effectual way; or whether he was so delicate as to ask nothing, but leave the mode of serving him, entirely to them, I never heard. It is certain however he never received any thing from the family; except trifling services, which he well repaid. He had expectations however at the time this letter was written; and the delicacy of it consists, in the easy manner, in which he insinuates a reference to his own interests, when he endeavoured to serve others.

To Sir John Lowther Bart:

Whitehaven Mar: 5. 1696.

Sir,

this comes to give you the earliest notice, that yester night Mr: Antrobus one of the land waiters here, dyed. On such occasions many people have expectations; & 'tis not easy to avoid sollicitations. I do not pretend, to engage you in any thing which may be uneasy: & you will pardon me, Sir, if on this occasion, I presume, to say, I am not altogether out of hope, but that I may have an interest of my own, which ought to make me cautious, lest I put you upon asking so much for others, that you can ask nothing, in convenient time, for me.

* On the 7th of this month a duty of 5/- $\frac{1}{2}$ chaldron was placed on coal, which could not but be highly injurious to trade generally, but on the 16th, three days following the date of this letter, a duty of 7/6 $\frac{1}{2}$ chaldron was imposed on the importation of Scotch coal. The English Parliament could not levy a duty on coal in Scotland; the result, therefore, of their legislation would be to place Glasgow in a highly favourable position, as regards the establishment of manufactures, compared with Whitehaven, and would give a stimulus to the trade of the former with the plantations proportionate to the discouragement inflicted on the latter.—Luttrell's Relation of State Affairs, Vol. IV, pp. 365-8.

At present I am only to lay before you the pretensions of two persons, which I have had occasion to acquaint you with heretofore severally; & (being but now a remembrancer) must name them together. The one is Henry Pattinson of Carlisle; and the other Richard Gibson. They cannot both be gratified with the place, & yet if it could be divided, it might perhaps well enough content them both. Pattinson is old & infirm, and upon no account so fit to officiate: & perhaps a little money, which I could cause the other to pay him, or lay out in some conveniences for him in this town, which I could order as if it came from you, as it would better suit his circumstances, so also it would be as pleasing.

I am &c

W. G.

To this letter I subjoin another, in which M^r. G. expressly asks a favour, but in that way that shews he might have commanded a much greater, than the trifling one he asked, which was only that his son might be continued a midshipman. He was now an elderly man, & talks like one who knows his own consequence. The letter seems to be written to M^r. Lowther, afterwards Sir James Lowther. Sir John Lowther was now dead; & his eldest son whom he disinherited, had the title.—M^r. G. speaks in this letter of his connection with the custom house. I know not what he alludes to; except his being deputy vice-admiral of the county; which I believe gave him some jurisdiction over the officers of the coast. This letter was written just before an election, & shews the great interest he had in the county.

Scaleby Nov^r. ult^r 1721.

Sir,

I have a favour to beg of you: but have so little pretension that I know not how to do it. I make no doubt, but at this time every body who can procure you a vote, thinks he is intitled to a place; & that you have work enough upon your hands, to grant petitions, or find out decent excuses. But my relation to the custom house makes it criminal in me to ask a vote; & I dare scarce say how I intend to dispose of my own; lest it should be called soliciting.

I may tell you however a matter of fact, that several hundreds in, & near my neighbourhood, have declared they will vote, as I do. I dare not so much as tell you, whether I have any hopes or wishes for you. I only claim your friendship, & desire on that score alone; you would be pleased to use your interest, with the admirals, & lords of the admiralty to continue my son (Henry Gilpin) as a midshipman, in some of the king's ships. He went into the fleet, with the king's letter, and having been there (in the Mediterranean & the Baltick) three years, is afraid if he be not continued in employ, 'till his four years are out, it may endanger his preferment. Sir John Norris & Sir John Jennings have been already applied to, but finding that now, when almost all the men of war are paid off, they have many of their own favourites upon their hands, & that what further interest can be made, will be wanted, I presume to ask yours, & shall always remain

&c W. G.

The last letter was written the year before an election, the two following were written the year after it.—The first of them, to Lord Lonsdale, was accompanied with a list of coast officers, which Lord Lonsdale had desired. The second to M^r Lowther, gives him cheifly the state of the county after the election.—In the beginning of this year the ministry had information (supposed to be given by the duke of Orleans regent of France) of a conspiracy form^d against the government; and it was supposed from the active part the ministry took, that a squadron of ships would be fitted out. On this occasion M^r G. renewed his application for his son Harry, w^h had probably not succeeded before. This was the conspiracy in which the B^r of Rochester was supposed to have been concerned: but as it was soon discovered by seizing the papers of Christopher Layer, & others, no armament was made.

Scaleby March 15. 1722

My Lord,

by M^r Lowther's directions I send your lordship a list of the custom house officers at Whitehaven only; which tho' we

usually call it a port, is properly only a member of the port of Carlisle. The custom-house of Whitehaven takes care of the coast from Milthorpe in Westmorland to Ellom-foot* inclusively. The custom house at Carlisle, of the rest of the coast of Cumberland; and the borders of Scotland to Northumberland. The patent officers extend to both. I shall therefore place them in the list of the officers of Carlisle, which I shall send your Lordship as soon as I have perfected it. I presume Mr. Brougham† has furnished you with a list of the officers of excise, malt, salt, leather &c. If not I believe I can procure that also; and shall be always glad to receive your lordship's commands, in every thing wherein I can be serviceable to you, or your interest, being very sensible that your lordship's influence will be of great advantage to all the affairs of this county.

I am &c.

W. G.

Whitehaven Mar 15. 1722

Sir,

tho' according to the hint you gave me, I ascribe Peter Blacklock's preferment to your cousin Lamplugh's influence, yet I am very sensible, that it is one of the many obligations, which I myself do owe you. I am glad it succeeded, because it convinces people, that you have not lost your interest, nor your inclination to serve your friends; notwithstanding the ungrateful return which this county made you.‡ However I shall take all the care I can, to prevent any application to be made to you, that may be troublesome or improper. I have diverted two or three that were very importunate for your interest to succeed Barth: Whiteside, one of the tide waiters at Whitehaven, lately dead; because they being friends

* Ellenfoot, now known as Maryport.

† John Brougham, Commissioner of Excise, who, on the death of his elder brother, heired the paternal estate of Scales Hall, and, besides other acquisitions of landed property, repurchased the ancient family estate at Brougham.

‡ This incidental remark is of some value, as it shows that Sir James, who had sat for Cumberland from 1708 to 1722, had been ejected from the representation of that county by Sir Christopher Musgrave, who held the seat till 1727, when Sir James recovered it. Mr. R. S. Ferguson, with all his minute research, was unable to ascertain whether the substitution of Musgrave for Lowther was the result of a contest or an arrangement.—See “Lord Lieutenants and M.P.'s of Cumberland and Westmorland,” page 406.

I thought it was not fit, that you should be under the uneasiness of denying them yourself; as you must have done by your promise to Lord Lonsdale. I have, this post sent his Lordship a list of the custom house officers at Whitehaven; & shall send him a list of those of Carlisle in a post or two. However I hope his Lordship will not expect wholly to exclude you from interposing when you think fit in the places of your own town at least.

The late election at Carlisle hath put Mr Bateman's friends in great confusion. There are great sums still unpaid. One of them, who wants £200, took a journey to London, & applyed to my Lord Carlisle, and upon his refusal to pay it, the other day arrested his steward for the sum.* There are great demands made by John Simpson's executors, & by Hutchinson, and others; but they have not yet betaken themselves to the law.

The bishop of Derry tells us, there will be several ships put in commission this year. My son Harry, who is weary of being out of business, has presumed to beg if it be so, that you would be pleased to remember him. You have been so kind to him already, that I am ashamed to give you any more trouble on his account. I find he has improved himself very well, & am so much satisfied with his capacity, & sobriety, that I should be glad he were in that sort of business which he gives his mind so much to. You will be pleased to advise me, whether there be any prospect of success, that if there be not, I may think of something else for him, for I w^d not willingly have him lose so much time in doubtful expectation. I am &c.

W. G.

The last letter I shall offer was written on the following occasion.

As the subjects of all geographical books are continually changing, a society of learned men at this time undertook to give a new & improved edition of Camden's Britannia. Mr Gibson afterwards Bishop of London, was the ostensible editor. Mr Gilpin was then only a young man, but Sir

* Charles Howard, third Earl of Carlisle, was at this time Lord Lieutenant of Cumberland and Westmerland. It would seem that there was a popular opinion that James Bateman, who was an imported candidate without any local connection, was his special protégé.

John Lowther (who had probably been applied to by the undertakers of this edition) had so high an opinion of his abilities & information in matters of antiquity that he desired him on this occasion, to give him his thoughts on Camden's account of Cumberland, with a view to improve the new edition of the Britannia. The following is M^r Gilpin's answer.

Whitehaven Nov: 2. 1694.

Sir,

it must be owned, that few counties in England afford more remarkable matter to a chorographer, & perhaps also to a naturalist, than Cumberland. And yet I know not how it happens the description of it in Camden's Britannia seems less adorned than most others. Many of our antiquities are omitted ; & the history of several changes of the inhabitants under the Romans, the Britons during the Saxon heptarchy, the Danes, the Scots, & the great revolution that was made by Randolph de Meschines fifth son to Hugh Lupus earl of Chester is very defective. Some minuter things are also mistaken ; as where he would find the old Voreda in Westward (as he calls it I suppose to countenance the derivation) tho' in truth it is no more to the Westward of the Forrest of Inglewood, and has no other relation, but to distinguish that place from other wards of the same forest. And so, where he inclines to find old Morbius in Moresby ; wh^{ch} is but a mistake of the true writing of the name, which is Mauriceby, from one Maurice who first settled there under the Meschines. And the maps are abominably false in many particulars. But I believe my cousin Nicholson arch-deacon of Carlisle* and D^r Todd have taken some pains in improving the chorography ; & also the ancient history of Cumberland, & have likewise done something in natural history. But whether they have communicated their observations to the undertakers of the New Britannia, I know not. What makes me doubtful, is, because one of them at least had thoughts himself of doing something in D^r Plot's method ; and has been collecting materials for that purpose. It may therefore be a needless labour to suggest any thing, unless one knew what

* Afterwards Bishop of that See, and subsequently nominated Archbishop of Cashell, a dignity he never enjoyed owing to his premature decease.

assistance they have already given. I have a few Roman coins found about Carlisle. Some of them (of Hadrian) I saw taken out of a vault as they were digging a cellar: but there is none that I have, but what is common, unless perhaps a Licinius. I could discover nothing in the vault, by which I could gather it had been Roman. I rather concluded it British; and being overgrown, during the time the city lay waste, after it was desolated by the Danes, it came afterwards to be superstructed, when W. Rufus re-built the city. They often find there the like foundations of old buildings, and great beams, when they sink for wells, or the like. Not long ago upon such an occasion two human skulls were found under a plain surface, at four fathom depth as I remember.

I have also some altar stones at Scaleby taken out of the Roman wall. One DEO SOLI INVICTO SEX SEVER IVS SALLVATOR: another DEO COCCDI. I read the C hard, and conjecture that this rural deity, KOKIS might perhaps give name to Coket river, & Coket island in Northumberland. The river has its rise not far from the wall.—Another of my altars is inscribed DEO SANCTO RELA LUCADRO AU.D. C. ULLINUS V. S. I would have sent you the exact drawing of these altars; but I have some time ago caused them to be communicated to Mr. Gibson one of the undertakers. But there are some inscriptions at Nether-hall which I believe, have yet escaped all notice. And when I go to Carlisle about the election, I will go that way, & take drawings of them, & send them to you.

I hear Mr. Machell has offered the undertakers a map of Cumberland & Westmorland, but insists to have it dedicated to Lord Carlisle; which they refuse, being unwilling to offend others. Dr. Plot's method seems good; especially in his map of Staffordshire, where the houses of the gentlemen are described by numbers, wh^{ch} refer to their arms in the margin. But unless the undertakers have taken that course with those maps that are already engraven, it cannot be thought they should take it now in that of Cumberland. Mr. Adam's papers (which I believe may be retrieved) would improve many of the maps. In Cumberland I know he was at a great deal of pains in taking the distances, & bearings, and also in the antiquities. I can furnish you with the precincts of all the wards—and some corrections which I made in Eskdale ward, when I was county-keeper.

But I suppose, Sir, what you require my thoughts in, is chiefly

with relation to Whitehaven. I think in the first place it will be proper to take notice of your altar; and that it remains at your house at Whitehaven. And I think you may correct a remark of Dr. Spon's, who as I remember doth somewhere pronounce an inscription, that he met with, to be spurious, because the diphthong is in one character *Æ* and not in two *AE*; for by the nicest observation I can make the diphthongs in your altar are united *Æ*. But the stone is something defaced; and it is necessary to take some care for its preservation, which I shall do.*—I must confess, that as to the antiquity of the town, much cannot be said. It owes its present flourishing circumstances that it is under, altogether to your care; by whose influence & encouragement, within these few years, from a town of 2 or 3 fishing barks to be the owner of above 60 sail of good ships, which drive a considerable trade, not only by supplying Dublin with coals, but also to Virginia, Norway &c to the great improvement not only of the town but the whole country. And that a just estimate may be made of the trade, I shall shortly procure you an abstract of the entries in the custom house for this last year.

Yet the place is not altogether so new as some think; for in the grant, which William de Meschines the Lord of Egremont barony (brother to Rannulph de Meschines) made of Kirkby to the abbey of St. Mary's at York (which I think was about the year 1140) the bounds are described thus. Totam visam, et totum foedum, inter has devisas, viz, a pede de Whitothaven ad Kekel, & per Kekel donec cadit in Eyre, et per Eyre quounque cadit in mare &c, from which I also observe that the town does not owe its name, to the white rocks adjoining as is commonly said; but to some *white-toft* or house which might be remarkable enough to give name to a poor haven, as it was before your, & Sir Christopher Lowther's encouragement had made it so considerable, as it is at present.

It may also be fit to take notice, that B^r Grindall was born at

* The altar numbered 874 in Dr. Bruce's "Lapidarium Septemtrionale," was found at Maryport, and was purchased by Sir John Lowther from John Senhouse, Esq., great great grandson to Camden's entertainer, for £20. (See Thoresby's Diary, Vol. I, p. 270, referred to in note page 16.) It still stands in the Hall of Whitehaven Castle, whence William, late Earl of Lonsdale, would not allow it to be moved even when forming his magnificent collection of antiquities at Lowther Castle. Those named on a former page, and respectively numbered in the same great work 437 and 484, found at Castlesteads, and 373, found at Birdoswald, are unfortunately lost.

Hensingham, & not at the town of St Bees ; as is commonly mistaken ; & of his benefaction to the school of St Bees, & of your building a library to it ;* and also of building another school at Whitehaven ; and of your benefaction to the poor, & to a church there, which equals most of the new ones in London.

The copper-works also, which are hopefully going on in several parts of the county ; but especially your collieries at Whitehaven, which are of so much real & general advantage ; & the free & plentiful iron ore at Langaran near Whitehaven ; and that of Frisington & the intended forge at Cleator for smelting them with pit coal, are all proper for the natural history of the place, & would no doubt if well handled, both be of ornament & of use.

There are also several other fossils in many places of the county, that are worth considering, & some concerning which I would willingly make some little trial, which I find about your collieries at Whitehaven. But I can only hint these matters, having no leisure, nor pretending to any skill to carry my inquiries farther.

You have some boxes here which have directions on them for yourself. I am told they are books, which you formerly sent down. If they be nothing else, I shall desire your permission to open them.

I am &c. W. G.

M^r. Gilpin says in this letter, that he had sent drawings of his altars to M^r. Gibson, who has accordingly inserted them in his edition of Camden vol: II. page 1031. But it is somewhat singular, that the many excellent hints in this letter, together with some mistakes pointed out, which Camden had made, should not in the least be taken notice

* In all the local topographical works Sir John is credited with being a large donor of books to the Library of the Grammar School, whereas I find he only presented half a dozen volumes, whilst the neighbouring gentry, the old pupils of the school, and the merchants of Whitehaven, gave several hundreds. Here we learn that a lean-to, appended to the original structure, considerably altered when the school underwent reconstruction about 1840, was erected by Sir John, for the accommodation of the books then rapidly pouring in. William Gilpin gave Henry Stephan's edition of Zenophon's Works, fo. 1581.

The school at Whitehaven gave its name to Schoolhouse Lane, and the building, though long disused for its original purposes, still exists, facing Lowther Street. Sir John gave liberally when the old Church was built, as did also the inhabitants of the town generally.

of : whether Sir John Lowther, to whom the letter was written, meant it only for his own private satisfaction—or it came too late to be of the service that was intended.

M^r: Gilpin left behind him five sons, & three daughters—in order of birth, Susannah Maria—Ann—Richard—William—Henry—John Bernard—Dorothy—and Thomas.—He himself had been left greatly incumbered.—His father thinking it right to divide his fortune nearly among his children, had bequeathed his estate indeed to his eldest son ; but greatly burthened for the use of the younger children. This put M^r: Gilpin to great difficulties during the early part of his life ; and it was some time before he could live upon his estate, in the manner in which he thought it required. By degrees however his eminence in his profession, joined to great assiduity, and an exact oeconomy overcame all his difficulties, and tho' he had a large family he found himself perfectly at ease for many years of his latter life.—At his death however he resolved not to leave his eldest son under the difficulties which he had experienced himself. He thought indeed it was consulting better for his younger children to leave the head of the family so circumstanced, as to be of some consideration in the county, which he conceived, might enable him to be of more use occasionally to *them all* ; than a small adition to the patrimony of each, could be to *any of them*.

But we have in this disposal of his affairs, and in that of his father, a strong instance of the imperfection of human foresight. Here are two wise and good men disposing of their effects for the best advantage of their families ; & taking just contrary methods : and tho' both acted on just reasoning, they not only both lost their end ; but if each had taken the others method, he would probably have succeeded. If D^r: Gilpin had left his eldest son less incumbered, so wise, so active, and so respectable a young man might have been of great use to his family On the other hand if this gentleman had left his affairs more equally among his child'ren,

one or other might have been enabled to take some lead in life, advantageous to the rest; for which the eldest son *Richard* was perhaps the worst qualified among them. He was bred to the bar; was chosen recorder of Carlisle, immediately on his father's death; out of compliment to that worthy man's memory; & being well-natured and free from vice, was generally conceived to be a promising young man. But he had acted hitherto under a wise & prudent father, who directed all his actions. He soon shewed, when left to himself, how much he stood in need of direction. Indiscretion, and vanity were his ruin: and that estate, which his grandfather and father had purchased, increased & lived on, with credit to themselves, & a just discharge of all the offices of life, tho' each had a numerous family; he without any family dissipated, dispersed, mortgaged & finally was obliged to sell. Thus the family which had recovered in a degree the loss of Kentmire, their old situation, was broken up a second time; and all the younger branches, having now no central tye, were dispersed in the wide world, & obliged to seek their fortunes, where they could find them.— I shall however say no more of *Richard* the eldest son of this family: for tho', he never did any thing worthy to record; yet he had a goodness of nature about him, which I shall draw as a skreen over his imperfections.*

* The Rev. Richard Warner, in his "Literary Recollections, 2 Vols., London, 1830," has a chapter devoted to the Rev. Wm. Gilpin of Boldre, to whom for a time he was Curate. Much matter, derived from Gilpin's own communications, is given there, which, when supplementary to the autobiography, as some of it is, I will freely extract. He writes thus to Warner of his uncle:—"During my being at school and college, great revolutions happened at Scaleby Castle. My father's elder brother had succeeded to the estate: he was an honest, good tempered man; but had neither the sense nor prudence of his father or younger brother. In short, without any vice worse than vanity and indiscretion, he contrived to run his estate deeply into debt. The finishing stroke, I have been told, was an imprudent bond he entered into with government, in behalf of the Receiver-General of the county. The event was the Receiver failed, and Scaleby Castle was sold."—Literary Recollections, Vol. I, p. 318.

Richard Gilpin's will, written with his own hand, exists in the Registry of the Court of Probate at Carlisle. It is dated Feb. 5th, 1744, with two codicils appended; one thirteen days later, and a second of February 18th, 1745. It

WILLIAM GILPIN.

William, the next son was a merchant at Whitehaven, where he lived a few years, in good credit; but dyed young. He was a sensible man, and much esteem'd by all who knew him.*

HENRY GILPIN.

Henry has been favourably mentioned already as a young officer in the Navy: but during the time of Sir Robert Walpoles peaceful ministry, not being able to get forward in his profession, I believe he went into the merchant-service; and dyed young at Jamaica.

was proved Aug. 30th, 1753. What he may have done with his property in the interim I do not know, but in the will he gives and devises Scaleby Castle and the appurtenances to his brothers John and Thomas Gilpin, his brother in law William Hicks, and his cosen Joseph Dacre, as Trustees to sell the same, for he says, "I have met with several misfortunes and thereby involved myself in great debts." He gives and devises to the same parties, as Trustees, his Estates at Highfield Moor, at Richardby, at Whitfield, at Whadut, and his Tythe at Corby and at Holmenda, entailing them consecutively upon his sons, and, failing them, upon his daughters, next upon his nephew William Gilpin and his heirs, with remainder to his brother John and his heirs, and next his brother Thomas and his heirs." "To my loving Wife Eighty Pounds a year to be paid quarterly, my coach and a pair of horses, the furniture of my room, my Silver Sugar Dish, and ye furniture she brought with her, and ye use of all my other furniture so long as she remains my Widow." Next come minor bequests to various other members of the family, then, "Item I give my Roman Ring & Altars to my cos Dacre & desire him to build a shade for preserving them." The altars, as has been stated, have disappeared, but the ring was discovered in the possession of the Rev. Wm. Dacre of Irthington, the descendant and representative of the legatee, whilst these Memoirs were passing through the press. It was wrapped in a paper on which was written, in the testator's own handwriting, "This ring to be given to Joseph Dacre as it belongs to the family found in ye churcyard at Castlesteads in a Roman urn." The stone is a carbuncle, on which are engraved three heads. The central one looking to the right bearing a modus, or bushel, has been pronounced by Mr. John Evans to be that of Serapis; he identifies the two lateral ones, each surmounted by a star, as those of Castor and Pollux, a most unusual combination; and he is of opinion that it was engraved in the East; conclusions to which the Rev. J. S. Lewis subscribes, but is disposed to be still more particular as to the period and *locale* of the engraver, which he fixes at Alexandria, in the second century.

* William Gilpin purchased Tangier House, Whitehaven, Sept. 9th, 1725, and on July 3rd, 1745, in consequence of his having been bound for Richard Gilpin, the same was sold after his decease by his son William to William Hicks.

THOMAS GILPIN.

Thomas, was bred to trade. He was a friendly man, & generally esteemed: but he was imprudent, and very unfortunate. He schemed beyond his capital, which involved him often in difficulties; and losing a ship or two uninsured, he failed in business. He was struck afterwards, tho' yet a young man, with the palsy, which deprived him of the use of his limbs & speech some years before he died.*

Of *John Bernard*, who was older than Thomas I have said nothing. As he was the only one of the brothers except *Richard*, who lived into old age, & may be said to have thoroughly formed a character, I shall afterwards speak more fully of him.

The three daughters were all good women. The two younger Ann and Dorothy were both very inferior in point of understanding to their elder sister: but if making the best use of talents however slender, is the commendable part, few persons ever filled their stations with more propriety.

ANNE GILPIN.

She was a woman of uncommon piety & benevolence. She lived at Scaleby after her father's death, with her eldest brother, whose thriftless hand could never pay even the little fortune, which her father left her. There she spent her whole time in benefitting her poor neighbours. Her time was all she had to give. She could not administer to their distresses; & hardly to her own: but she was contented, cheerful, & happy. God did not require from her, what she could not do; & her religion taught her to bear

* Previous to October 23rd, 1751, William and Thomas Gilpin had become bankrupts, for on that day their assignees disposed of the building then used as a sugar-boiling house, situate at the corner of Duke Street and Tangier Street, Whitehaven. William, I understand to have been the son of the William named in the preceding page, who, I infer, was in partnership with his uncle Thomas.

without complaint, what she could not help. Her bible was her constant study ; and with pious texts, which she had always at hand from the store house of an excellent memory, she was ready to comfort, or instruct an afflicted, or straying neighbour. No minister of a parish could be more truely zealous ; & in a place where her father & grandfather had been so respected, few parish ministers could have had greater influence.—Among other parts of this amiable character it should not be forgotten, that she had a peculiar art in pleasing children, & gaining their attention by a variety of little stories, which she had collected in her reading. Where-ever she & they appeared together, she never failed to draw a little group of them around her. The author of these memoirs, who has often stood at her knee on these occasions, cannot forbear this tribute to her memory.

She lived in full health, into a good old age. She was never married. As her life had always been calm, & unruffled, her death corresponded with it. She had a fine voice, & employed her last moments in singing psalms & hymns, while her breath sufficed. Baxter was her favourite author from whose *Dying thoughts* she probably remember'd this passage. “ Nothing comforts me more in my greatest sufferings, nor seems more fit for me, while I wait for death, than singing psalms of praise to God ; nor is there any exercise, in which I had rather end my life.” The following letter gives an account of her last moments.

My Dear Son

My Sister Appleby & my two Sisters were here about a Week, they left us about a fortnight agoe, the Day after they returned home my Sister Ann was seized with a shortness of breath, she continued to grow worse & worse, for seven or eight days, but never complain'd of any pain or any disorder the whole time till she died, which was last thursday.—The last day of her life she employ'd in singing psalms as she lay in bed for some time, then repeated the lord's prayer ending with Amen Amen, God bless us all, and so died in the greatest composure.—

Yesterday she was buried, according to her own desire in Scaleby Church—My sister Appleby is a good deal out of order, & we cannot help being very apprehensive for her, tho this day we have more favourable news—Her loss would indeed be felt by many—Your Mother, Kitty, & I, were lately at Crofton, we staid a Week with the Doct^r*—He was very chearfull & as well as he has been for some time—Your Mother & the Doct^r went in his chaise, to Aikton to see Mr Lowther,† & had a very pleasant ride—This easter Sessions, the Justices, a Majority of which are in the interest of Sr J—L turned Mr Farish out of his Chaplainship of the Jail in revenge for his voting for Mr Curwen & Mr Fletcher this is generaly look'd upon as a very low piece of party spirit.—Mr Farish loses about 20 pds a year, but upon the whole I hope he will be no loser, even if they should take the Chaplainship of the Corporation from him too, as nothing could be laid to his charge,—You did not say in yours whether Mercy & little Suky were return'd from Margate—I should be sorry if Sawrey has not had time to finish Darius, so as to gain him credit at the Exhibition, your great concern for him may perhaps make you too severe a critic, which I wish may be the case—I will remember what Peggy desires with regard to the pedigree—

Yor affec^t Father

J B G—

April 19th.

1769—

To the Rev^d Mr Gilpin
at Cheam near Croydon
Surry—

DOROTHY GILPIN.

Her sister *Dorothy* had a harder life, a great part of which was only one continued example of resignation, & suffering piety. She was married to a gentleman of the

* The Rev. John Brisco, D.D., Rector of Orton and Vicar of Aspatria, but resident, it seems, at Crofton. The Briscos and Gilpins had been closely allied in a former generation, and fresh links had been added in later years. John Bernard's wife's mother was aunt to the Reverend Doctor.

† The Rev. Henry Lowther, Rector of Aikton, who died at an advanced age in May, 1781, was universally beloved. "He was the priest, the physician, and the lawyer of his parish, and an invaluable blessing to his neighbourhood." He was grandfather of the late Rev. Henry Lowther, Rector of Distington.

name of Griffith, an artillery Officer, and brigade Major in Edinburgh Castle. He was barrack-master also; & had an income, which might have been a handsome support with economy: but economy was a virtue with which he had no acquaintance. Two persons indeed could hardly be less equally matched. Tho' he had his virtues, he was at the same time loud, boisterous & passionate; given much to swearing, jovial, profuse, & extravagant. She was mild, gentle, pious, domestic, generous, & yet frugal. He always *professed* a great regard for her; and *shewed* it by reducing her to extreme necessity. Nothing however could subdue the tenderness of her affection for him. It was founded on a sense of duty.

At the battle of Preston Panks in the year 1745 he commanded the artillery; and being wounded, and taken prisoner, was carried by the rebels to Perth; where she followed him with every tenderness she could exert. After the rebellion was over, he went to London to sollicit payment for some stores which he had purchased in his own name for the service of the government. The purchase was well-meant, but probably imprudently executed. It involved him in a tedious sollicitation & expence, which added to his other imprudencies, entirely broke up his affairs. His death happened soon after; and a small pension with some little kindnesses from her friends, gratified all her wants. She died in an advanced age, and was so far from making the least complaint, that she blessed God for all his kindnesses to her, through life. Her whole life no doubt in a worldly sense, was a very unhappy one: but she turned her afflictions into the blessings of religion.

SUSANNAH MARIA GILPIN.

Susannah Maria the eldest daughter, whom I have reserved for the last, had all the piety of her two younger sisters, but with a much superior understanding than either of them. She had the talents of her father: She married

in his life time, M^r Dacre Appleby of Kirklington, whose estate lay contiguous to Scaleby. He was a man of soft & pleasing manners, beloved by every body—and particularly by the boon companions of the neighbourhood, who resorted too much to his house. He had been bred among hounds, & horses—was acquainted with no language, but that of the stable & kennel; and had little knowledge but what related to field sports. His deficiency however was rather owing to the want of an education than to want of parts; while the esteem he met with depended entirely on the goodness of his nature, which was friendly & obliging to all. He could not have married a woman better qualified to keep up his credit in every respect. His ignorance in many things she contrived to cover; & as often to draw his good qualities into notice. Whatever was well done, was his doing; & when any thing went amiss, she was content, if she could, to bear the blame. *Her* hand-writing was said to be so extremely like *His*, that the difference could hardly be discovered. Under this pretence she wrote all his letters. And tho' she could not sit on the bench with him, as a justice of the peace, yet every kind of business in that department, which could be managed behind the curtain, she managed for him. His affairs too she kept in excellent order, which without her management would certainly have gone wrong: people of his disposition, fond of society & averse to business, seldom pay much attention to these matters. But all she did, was done without any assuming airs, or appearance of superiority. Her husband, on his part, had the highest affection for her; and tho' he was certainly no companion to a woman of her superior understanding; yet he was always a pleasant, kind, & faithful friend.—They did not however enjoy many years together. In early life he was taken off by an accident. As he was walking in the dark through a passage in his own house, his foot slipped, and he fell down the stone-stairs of a deep cellar, & fractured his skull.

She was now at liberty to act for herself, and shew her talents to more advantage. Her husband had settled upon her a jointure proportioned to the value of his estate : & she was besides intrusted with the education of her children, two boys, and three girls. This was her first care. Her sons had unhappily been too much already under the tuition of their father's groom, and huntsman, to listen much to any other instructors : but her daughters were bred up with great propriety.

Her eldest son,* soon after he came of age, married a

* The following very singular story respecting this young man is extracted from "More Glimpses of the World Unseen," by Dr. F. G. Lee, London, 1878" :

"About the year 1731," wrote Lady Clerk of Penecuick, "my father Joseph Dacre Esqr. of Kirklington, in the co. of Cumberland, then a youth came to Edinburgh to attend the classes, having the advantage of an uncle in the regiment then in the Castle ; & remained under the protection of his uncle & aunt, Major & Mrs. Griffiths, during the winter. When spring arrived, Mr. Dacre & 3 or 4 young gentlemen from England (his intimatee) made parties to visit all the neighbouring places about Edinburgh, Roslyn, Arthur's Seat, Craigmellar, &c.

"Coming home one evening from some of these places, Mr. Dacre said, 'We have made a party to go a fishing to Inchkeith to-morrow, if the morning is fine, & have bespoke our boat. We shall be off at 6.'

"No objection being made they separated for the night.

"Mrs. Griffiths had not been long asleep, till she screamed out in the most violent agitated manner, 'The boat is sinking : save O save them !' The Major awakened her, & said 'Were you uneasy beforehand about the fishing party ?' 'Oh no,' she replied, 'I had not once thought of it.' She then composed herself, & soon fell asleep. In about another hour, she cried out, in a dreadful fright, 'I see the boat is going down !'

"The Major again awoke her, & she said, 'It has no doubt been owing to the other dream I had : for I feel no uneasiness about it.'

"After some conversation they both fell sound asleep again, but no rest could be obtained for her. In the most extreme agony she screamed, 'They are gone : the boat is sunk !' When the Major awakened her she said, 'Now I cannot rest, Mr. Dacre must not go. For I feel sure that if he should go I should be miserable till his return. The thoughts of it would almost kill me.'

"She instantly arose, threw on her dressing gown, went to his bedside, (for his room was next to their own,) & with great difficulty secured from him a promise to remain at home.

"But what am I to say to my young friends whom I was to meet at Leith at 6 o'clock ?" he asked.

"With great truth you may say that your aunt is ill," she replied. "For so I certainly am at present. Consider that you are an only son, under our protection ; & should anything happen to you, it would be my death."

"Mr. Dacre immediately wrote a note to his friends, saying that he was prevented joining them ; & sent his servant with it to Leith.

"The morning dawned most beautifully & continued fair for some hours, until all of a sudden a violent storm arose, &, in an instant, the boat and all

daughter† of the B^r. of Carlisle, on which M^r Appleby left Kirklington, & retired to her jointure-house at Castlesteeds, about nine miles from Carlisle. Her jointure was a farm of about a hundred a year, which in that cheap county, & in those frugal days, was an ample provision for a *single woman*: but *she* made it a blessing to a *neighbourhood*. No person ever knew better, than she did, the bounds of generosity & economy. Whoever should have observed her common mode of living—the handsome manner in which she entertained her guests—her kindness to the poor cottagers around her—and the generous things she often did among her relations—would easily have concluded her income to have been at least five times what it was; and would have conceived from her administering so small a fortune with such propriety, that she would have been equal to the largest.

She had a considerable knowledge of physic; and knew enough of law from living with her father; and her intercourse with law-matters in assisting her husband, to be of great use among her neighbours, who knowing her disinterestedness, looked up to her with the highest respect.

She had a vigorous mind and an active body; & as in the management of her *little fortune*, she shewed how well

who were in it, save one experienced swimmer, went to the bottom, nor was any part of it ever seen."

This event is found chronicled in a small serial entitled "The Caledonian Mercury," of August 12th, 1734. It appears that five persons of respectable positions in life, including Patrick Cuming, a merchant; John Campbell, a ship master; together with two youths, sons of gentlemen, went out in a boat, attended by some sailors, into the Frith of Forth to fish. A severe storm arose, the boat was suddenly overturned owing to the negligence of one of the sailors, as is recorded, and all were drowned except the Captain, Campbell, who, more dead than alive, was taken up by the people in a boat after he had been five hours in the water.

Lady Clerk appends to her account the remark, "I have often heard this story from my father, who always added, after having told it, 'It has not made me superstitious; but, with awful gratitude, I can never forget that my life, under God, was saved by a dream.'"

Lady Clerk was herself the heroine of a romantic story of the rebellion of 1745, which may be found in "Jefferson's History of Carlisle," p. 70.

† Catherine, third daughter of Sir George Fleming, Bart., Bishop of Carlisle, 1734-1747.

able she was to have managed a *larger*, so in the conduct of her *affairs*, she shewed a spirit, & judgement, which were equal to much more *important engagements*.

She kept a carriage for her friends ; but always herself rode on horse-back : & sometimes performed surprizing journeys when called suddenly to see a friend in sickness, or on any other necessary occasion. Seasons, weather, roads were never any considerations with her. She rode, many years, a large strong horse, on which she could depend, & when mounted on it, she used to say, she had no fears. She was engaged in a tedious lawsuit with the Earl of Carlisle, about a part of her son's estate, while she was his guardian : and to hasten her lawyers, she took two or three journeys to London on horse-back, in the depth of winter, over mountains & thro' roads, which at this time of day, would be deemed impossible.

The vigour of her constitution held out many years. To the last she submitted to no indulgencies : and after a short sickness, dyed in the year 1769, and was followed by all the country in tears to her grave.*

* Supplementary to the foregoing account of Mrs. Dacre Appleby, I append an extract, much in the same strain, from a communication made by our author to the Rev. Richard Warner:—" You desire to know something of Mrs. Appleby's economy: I had many opportunities of seeing it. The first situation I had, after I left college, was a curacy, within two miles of her house ; where I always spent Sunday Evening, and generally much of the week. In herself she was a woman of no expense. She had been left a widow in the prime of life, but wore mourning till her death ; which I have always thought very becoming. She was a cheerful woman, and made herself very agreeable to young people ; but indulged in no amusement. Her carriage was very little expense. Her coach horses went to plough ; and her ploughman sat upon the coach box. Her family, as I remember, consisted of two maids : an in-door servant : an out-servant ; and a gardener. But you will remember, that provisions were cheap ; and servants wages low. She was always esteemed the principal person of the country, within a dozen miles round her ; and all the poor people respected the *Madam*, as they called her, like a mother. When her elder brother's affairs went wrong, she took her sister and Anne and maintained them. I never heard that her fortune was more than ONE HUNDRED A YEAR ; but probably her house, and a few acres round it, which she cultivated, were not included in this estimate. Her son, also, Mr. Dacre, who was not only a very respectable man, but a most dutiful and affectionate son, was probably, very kind to her ; and furnished her family with corn, and malt, and game, and fish, of which he had abundance."—Literary Recollections, Vol. I, pp. 326-328.

The following letter enters into more minute details respecting her decease.

My Dear Son

In my last I mention'd to you my Sister Appelby's illness, she continued much in the same way (a violent cold, weakness & want of appetite) till last Wednesday when she died—She never kept her bed & to the last did almost every thing for herself, as she had been accustom'd—She never complain'd of much pain, & kept her senses to the last—just before her death she walk'd into her closset, & desired Doc^r Carlyle* to read a prayer, to thank God for the many blessings she had enjoy'd till that time, & express'd great submission to his will—after which she return'd into her own room & ask'd for a dish of tea she drank one dish, return'd Doc^r Carlyle the cup, sunk her head upon her breast & expired without the least strugle—Yesterday she was buried at Kirklington—A large crowd of country people (besides the Gentlemen invited) from the parishes of Irthington, Walton, Brampton, & Kirklington follow'd her to her grave—And indeed she will be much miss'd, as she was ever doing good to all her neighbours as far as it was in her power—She allways wish'd not to leave my sister Ann behind her, & there seems to be something very remarkable in her only surviving her one week—As to my poor sister Griffith as she has lost her chief support I have given her an invitation to make my house her own—M^r Dacre has for some time been much out of order by the gout in his stomach, but we hope he is better—as I have not wrote to your Brothers & Sisters, some of you will acquaint them with the contents of mine—we are all well—

Yor^r affec^t Father

John Bern^d Gilpin

Carlisle Ap^r 23^d

1769—

To the Rev^d M^r Gilpin
at Cheam near Croydon
Surry—

* George Carlyle, M.D., who had married her daughter Dorothy at Kirklington, Sept. 3, 1751, and by her had, together with other children, the learned Rev. Joseph Dacre Carlyle, mentioned in a subsequent page.

JOHN BERNARD GILPIN.

I shall proceed now to give some account of John Bernard, the youngest son of this family, except *Thomas*. He was born at Scaleby-castle in the year 1701. When he came from school, and was of an age to enter upon some employment, his father talked of placing him under an eminent conveyancer in London, and bringing him up to the law. But as his inclination rather led to the Army, his father indulged him in it, and purchased a commission for him in the 12th Regt of foot.

Casual circumstances often give a turn to our destinations in life; and what appears to be the result of consideration, is often only the effect of accident, or caprice. A circumstance of this kind, I have heard, had its effect in the present case. Three orphan sisters, of the name of Langstaff, related to the Scaleby-family, were left in guardianship to the old recorder. They were often of course, with their guardian at Scaleby castle, and being all very pleasing young women, contributed to make the family there, as I have described it above,* a very agreeable society. So many young people could not well be together without forming connections. Matilda, the eldest of the sisters, made an early impression on the heart of John Bernard; and having two or three times, in a gay humour thrown out a favourable opinion of the profession of arms, she immediately put conveyancing out of his head, and he at once determined on the life of a soldier. Tho' he was a young man of a cheerful temper; yet as he had rather a serious turn, was fond of books, and had nothing about him, of that gay disposition & love for shew, dress, & amusement, which are often incentives to a military life, his friends rather wondered at his choice; the powerful motive, that swayed him being unknown. But let none of their posterity criticize either

* See page 18.

him or her, on this occasion. She was a lively girl, about 16 or 17 years of age, and threw out what she said, perhaps wantonly & without any meaning. He was a mere boy very little elder, & not having a determination to *any* mode of life, might easily suffer *her opinion* to turn a scale, which had no weight on the *opposite* side.

As he had fixed however on his profession, he endeavoured to qualify himself for it. Mathematics were not then much applied to tactics. He was no mathematician : but he took such methods of improvement, as were then in use : and his manners were so pleasing that when he joined his regiment, he at once acquired the esteem of all his brother-officers. Before this time, it is probable Matilda had found out the interest she had in his breast ; and he too had discovered that he was not wholly indifferent to her. Possibly vows might have been exchanged between them ; for at this time she was addressed by a gentleman of large fortune in a neighbouring county, known (according to the courtesy of the North of England) by the name of Baron Hilton, to whom, without hesitation she gave a flat denial.*

An early marriage was the consequence of this early attachment. But nothing was done clandestinely. The parent and the guardian (although Matilda was now of age to dispose of herself) were consulted, and the marriage was solemnized at Scaleby-castle.

How far so wise a man as the old recorder Gilpin is represented to have been, acted prudently in consenting to this marriage of his son, for which so slender a provision had been made, will be questioned by prudent people. His son was only a Lieut^t and the fortune he got by his wife but small ; and even a part of it precariously situated. On this question however much may be said. In many cases, when thoughtless & imprudent young people come together ; and

* John Hylton, Esq., M.P. for Carlisle from 1726 to 1746, on the 25th of September in which year he died, unmarried, the last male of his ancient race.

when the early marriage does not excite an additional industry, it may end unhappily for both parties. And indeed, in almost all cases, *in a worldly sense*, the question must be given up. No doubt, a wife & family coming on, while the provision is yet scanty, must depress a man, and tend much to keep him indigent in almost every way of life. But when two prudent and virtuous young people *foreseeing all this*, resolve to draw their desires within the bounds of strict frugality ; and think they have a better chance for true happiness by uniting their little fortunes together, than by courting the promises of the world, there are many casuists perhaps, who would give the question in their favour. However deficient they may be in a worldly sense, they have certainly the advantage in point of virtue. All irregular desires; in the pursuit of worldly objects, pleasure, wealth & honor their contracted notions of life controul ; & they bring their ideas of earthly happiness more within the sober & limited bounds of truth and religion.—With such views and such limited ideas of worldly happiness, these two amiable & virtuous young people entered into an early engagement for life : and in the end it answered their expectations.

It was singular, that when this marriage was solemnized, William, the second son married Margaret the second sister. The same wedding-dinner served both. But Margaret was thought at that time to marry with much better prospects in life. Some years afterwards also, Thomas the youngest son married Elizabeth the youngest sister. This was an unhappy marriage as was hinted above ;* but she bore a tender share in all the afflictions of her husband.

Soon after his marriage, Lieut^t Gilpin was obliged to join his regiment, which was stationed in Scotland. His father giving him & his wife a kind invitation to live with him at Scaleby-castle, it continued to be their home for

* See page 42.

several years. He once, when the regiment was at Stirling, carried his wife with him; where she made some valuable acquaintances among the Scotch ladies, which she pursued thro' life. But in general he was garrisoned in Highland forts, incamped on wild heaths, or quartered in barracks in distant parts; where a family would be disagreeably situated: and indeed his family began soon to be so large, that it could not be moved without much expence. Once or twice a year while he continued in Scotland, he had leave of absence, & spent an agreeable month or two with his family at Scaleby.

His character, by this time, in the Regiment, and wherever he was known, was very high. In his military capacity he was much esteemed. In peaceful times indeed an officer has little opportunity of distinguishing himself: yet a man who acts always on principle, will make himself distinguished. Every man has some duties to perform; & he who can on every occasion, say *This is my duty, therefore I will do it;* is in fact a great character in whatever situation he is placed. The troops at this time in Scotland were chiefly employed in making roads—in guarding the coast from smuglers—and in preventing & quelling riots, to which the country was then not a little addicted. In all these things Lt Gilpin was active; tho' the service was often severe. The incampment of the troops had in some degree a hostile appearance: for the highlanders were often ill-disposed; & ready to attack the king's soldiers, when they had a favourable opportunity. Once in passing to the isle of Sky in an open boat, a storm arose, & the Lieut: and his men were saved almost by a miracle.

In the year 1730, the 12th regiment in which he served, & some other troops, were incamped in Windsor-forest, where they were employed in cutting roads thro' the woods. These roads, or openings were conducted without any taste, or any design, but that of making easy communications between the several parts of the forest; cheifly indeed for the queen,

& other ladies of the court to enjoy the diversion of stag-hunting in their carriages. Somerville, who wrote his poem of the Chace at this time, & describes a stag-hunting in Windsor-forest, alludes to these roads.

————— Glades crossing glades,
The forest opens to our wondering view.
Such was the king's command. The voice of war
So hushed; and stationed legions join in works
Of peace—to smooth the rugged wilderness—
To drain the stagnate fen—to raise the steep
Depending road; and to make gay the face
Of Nature, with th' embellishments of art.

During some of these incampments he was acquainted with the late celebrated Col: Gardiner; whom he knew, I believe, both before, and after the serious turn which the Colonel took in the latter part of his life. Many of those circumstances he used to mention from his own knowledge, which D^r: Doddridge relates in his memoirs of that gallant soldier.—It was no wonder L^t: Gilpin was one of his admirers; for he himself was as great an instance as Col: Gardiner, of uniting the character of a soldier with the virtues of a sincere Christian. The only difference was, that his life had been innocent throughout; whereas Col: Gardiner's early life was rather dissipated. Lieut: Gilpin not only practised christian virtues, but if I may so speak, he set a polish upon them; and shewed his brother-officers that a man might serve God, & believe in a Redeemer, and yet be deficient in no part of good breeding. He shewed them also, that neither swearing, nor any other modish accomplishment, was necessary to form either a gentleman, or a soldier.

And here I cannot forbear inserting a letter from his wife, soon after their marriage; which will shew his piety and the greatness of her mind, better than any other words I can use. He was on a visit to his brother William at Whitehaven, where he was seized with a violent pleurisy. His wife, who was then at Scaleby-castle, was sent for; &

in a few days wrote the following to her sister Dorothy, who was then unmarried.

My dear Dolly,

to entertain you with all the hopes, & fears which have distressed me since I saw you, w^t be endless & unprofitable. And yet it is so lately since these troublesome companions left me, that I can hardly forbear filling my paper with them. They shall give way however to a subject much more agreeable—the recovery of my dear soldier ; w^h was almost an unhoped for mercy. Oh my dear Dolly, how can I be enough thankful to that great Being, who has restored him to me ! The first night I got here I had no expectations of his life ; & accordingly took the first opportunity of letting him know the danger he was in : w^h was so far from being shocking to him, that he told me, he did not think it so hard to dye, as many people thought. And that if it was God Almighty's pleasure to take him then, he was satisfied : for whatever He thought fit to do with him, was certainly the thing, which ought to be done, & would be most for his advantage. I am sensible this manner of treating a sick person is condemned, & seldom practised ; and to flatter them & keep melancholy thoughts from them, is generally the endeavour of those about them. But in my opinion, it is a mistaken way, & ought not to be followed by any, who wish well to the most valuable part of a friend.—We all dined at M^r. Hicks's yesterday, which was the first day my dear soldier got out. I hope he will be able to come home in a short time. My mother will be so kind as send for us, when it is proper for him to venture, which in all likelihood will be in two or three days, if the weather be good. He is just now playing on the fiddle, which gives joy to the heart of

Your affect : sister

M. Gilpin.*

* William Gilpin, whose wife Margaret was, it will be remembered, sister to the writer of this letter, at this time resided in Lowther Street, Whitehaven, and William Hicks, Sheriff of Cumberland in 1737, about a dozen years later, was living in King Street. He married Sarah Hudson of Brunton, near Newcastle-on-Tyne, sister to Richard Gilpin's wife, Mary. William Gilpin was buried at St. Nicholas Church, Whitehaven, March 21st, 1785-6, and his widow became the wife of the Rev. William Brisco, her first cousin, Rector of Distington and Incumbent of Trinity Church, Whitehaven, and was left a second time a widow in 1745.

As he was correct in his life, he was cautious in his conversation. One reason for this caution was to avoid any pretence for quarrel. Duelling was against his principles. Tho' no man had more true courage he would have trembled at drawing his sword in a private quarrel. When he had to do therefore with irritable tempers, he was exceedingly on his guard; & as he was a very sober man, & had a variety of little innocent arts to avoid drinking, which he detested, he found it an easy thing to avoid quarrelling. Indeed I never heard, that in his whole life he was engaged in any personal contest.

His disposition was so remarkably sweet & gentle that it is on record he was *once* in a passion. The story indeed came only from himself. He had caught a soldier in some piece of wanton cruelty; & the thing coming suddenly upon him, he flew into a violent passion. I never heard that he struck the man; but he used always to end his story with saying, that no man ever behaved so like a puppy, as he did on that occasion. He always thought great caution was necessary, where an antagonist durst not reply. His reproofs therefore to his soldiers, on few occasions were severe. They were generally addressed with gentleness to the feelings of the offender. All people however have not the happy talent of making reproof palatable. In him it eminently resided. The following story is an instance. As he was sitting in his tent, he overheard a soldier frequently swear. He marked down the number of oaths he swore in a quarter of an hour; and then made a calculation what they would amount to in a twelve-month, at 6^d each. He then called in the soldier, talked to him of the wickedness & folly of swearing, & giving him the calculation, told him, his colonel's pay would not suffice him for the expences of a year's swearing. "God bless your honour, said the soldier, I did not think it would have come to so much; but I shall never forget your honour's calculation."

He was a man of great generosity. To *indulge generosity*

requires a large fortune, but a man may both *feel* it and *discover* it, without any fortune at all. The eye curious in human nature, sees it often lying hid in a cottage. L^t Gilpin had now a large family of 5 or 6 children, & but little besides his commission, to support them. His father was dead—his eldest brother was married; & he had removed from Scaleby-castle to a small house in the neighborhood. It was his business therefore to repress his *generosity*, and in its room to encourage *frugality*. What is virtue in one man, may border on vice in another. Many virtues depend on circumstances. To give them brilliancy at least, they must be suited to time, & place. Lieut^t Gilpin knew well, not only how to sort his virtues, but how to give an agreeable air to such as wanted to be set off. *Great frugality*, which was necessary to *him*, suits not well the character of a *gentleman*. A prince should be *properly* frugal: but it was necessary for *him* to be frugal in the *extreme*. Yet he had that pleasing manner which took off all idea of meanness from his frugality. Himself was its principal object. Careful of his cloaths, he always appeared as well dressed as his brother-officers; tho' his tailor's bill perhaps amounted only to a third of theirs. All expensive parties & amusem^t he avoided. Cards he never touched. Many a time he would go a fishing (the only diversion he was fond of) partly as a pretence to avoid a mess, & dine upon a crust & a bit of cheese. But when the king's birth day, or any occasion, which he thought necessary, called the officers together over a bottle, his purse opened as freely as his Colonel's.—Through these arts of *elegant frugality*, he never returned home from his regiment without bringing his wife a little purse of gold to subsist on, 'till he should see her again.

And here I shall relate a family story. On one of these happy meetings (for his coming home always diffused an unspeakable joy through the house) he found his mother sitting alone with his wife. That worthy & amiable woman since her husband's death had found her cheif comfort, in

the visits she used to pay her son John's family. After the first emotions of joy on this happy meeting, were over, & each of the children had had its turn on its father's knee, he pulled his little purse of gold out of his pocket ; and giving it to his wife, said, There, my dear, that is all I have been able to bring you this time. She told him he was too good—that he spared himself too much ; and that she really did not want it ; for she had not yet spent what he gave her last. If you, really do not want it, said the old lady, it will at present be of some convenience to me ; and when my son Richard's rents come in, I will replace it. They were both glad to accommodate her : but her son Richard's indiscretion never enabled her to refund this little sum, which was not more, I believe than twenty guineas. Thus that poor thoughtless man, whom his father had left well provided, with a view that he might be a support & protection to his brothers & sisters, contrived, in one way or another, to pillage each of them in their turn.

Many of Lieut^t Gilpin's friends being concerned to see his family encreasing beyond his means to support them ; and knowing that he had no purse, to advance his promotion, wished him to change his profession, & recommended the church to him. One of them indeed was so friendly as to offer him two livings, which were then vacant in his hands, if he would take orders : and his wife, who had been the undesigning cause of his going into the army, was now the most earnest solicitor with him to quit it. But tho' he had naturally that disposition, which, one should have supposed, would have led him rather to the church, than to the army, yet he had so great a dislike to enter unqualified into any profession, that he never would hear of changing that, in which he had already taken some pains. But it pleased God, in a little time to render this care of his friends unnecessary.

The two great contending interests, at this time, in Cumberland, were those of the Lowther & Howard families.

At the head of one was Sir James Lowther; at the head of the other was the earl of Carlisle. They were both well affected to the government; but each wished to have it known in the county, that he had the more interest at court. Among other points of opposition, the garrison of Carlisle furnished one. It consisted of two independent companies of invalids, one of which had lost its captain. The lieutenant of the company a worthy old officer, who had formerly seen service in Spain, and had certainly the fairest claim, was espoused by the earl of Carlisle. Sir James Lowther in opposition took up Lieut^t Gilpin. He was a young man it is true; & had seen little service: but he was an esteemed officer—a man of excellent character—connected with the county—and universally respected. During many months the matter hung in suspense. Sir Robert Walpole, who was then minister, was probably trying w^h party would serve him best. But as both could not be obliged, he found it expedient to gratify Sir James, who was one of his oracles in money matters; and of great use to him in negotiating loans.* Letters therefore at length came down signifying that the king had given the Commission to Lieut^t Gilpin. The pleasure of this appointment was in a good degree lessened by the circumstance of his competitor's residing on the spot, and being now his lieutenant. He had always lived on terms of intimacy with him; and it required all his address to manage so as to preserve his friendship; which however his pleasing manners effected; and the disappointed officer was often heard to say, that except himself, he wished for nobody so much as Captain Gilpin.

This promotion made a happy change in Captain Gilpin's affairs. His family was at this time so large, that it was

* This statement, taken in connection with the previously given anecdote of Sir James, and his possession of very large amounts of South Sea and other Stocks at his death, would seem to indicate that he might make money as a negotiator of loans; and this would explain how he found means to accumulate the enormous personality which he possessed at his decease. He may well have been the Rothschild of his day.

hardly in his power, with all his œconomy, to maintain them. But he was now quite easy in his circumstances. These companies were the best things of the kind in the army, each Captain being a colonel of his own company, which he clothed and paid. How these independent companies are regulated at this time, I know not.

A few years before Captain Gilpin had obtained this appointment, he had removed his family to Carlisle, for the sake of educating his children, so that being upon the spot, he was put to no extraordinary expence.

He now conceived himself as set down for life: for these companies are looked on as retreats for old officers; from which they never remove into marching regiments. Every idea of promotion therefore was now over, which it is probable, he w^d not have given up, at his age, if he had not had so large a family. If he had kept his old station and had survived the war, in which the nation was soon after engaged, he would in all likelihood have been a general officer; and at the head of a regiment. The 12th Regim^t, in which he served, was much employed; and was afterwards one of those celebrated six British regiments, whose bravery and conduct were so instrumental in gaining the battle of Minden. Kingsley, the colonel, and many of the private officers, received the thanks of Prince Ferdinand, who commanded the army.

But Captain Gilpin was perfectly happy in his new situation; and greatly preferred a present competence for his family, to a precarious reversion of honour and consequence to himself.

His old soldiers too were perfectly happy under his command. They had long known him as a resident among them; and were prepared to respect him. Often he would meet one, or other of them on a fishing party (for the many rivers about Carlisle turned them all into fishermen) and would accost him in some pleasing familiar manner: Well, brother soldier, what success have you had? He would then

look into his pannier, and tell him he had not been an idle man that morning. Or if he found he was a Scotchman, he would say something favourable of the Scotch rivers, in which he would tell him he had caught many a good trout. From the mere benignity of his temper his behaviour was *naturally* full of that obliging condescension to his inferiors, which interested men often *assume* in soliciting some popular election. So th^t he had made an interest among his old soldiers long before he had any connection with them ; and when it was known he had gotton the company, it was a joyful day among them all. When he took the command, he thought it wrong to treat such veterans with that strict discipline, which might be necessary with young fellows in a marching regiment. Most of them had fought in Flanders, or on the banks of the Danube. An old soldier, whom he kept about him, had been wounded at the battle of the Boyne. He would now and then ask them questions about the service they had seen, or the commanders they remembered. He would dismiss the parade of his centinel in a cold night—or in a hot day would send him out a cup of beer. He was friendly also in getting pensions when he could, to those who were past service—and was always ready to do little offices for them, their wives, or children. And in return there was hardly a man among them, who did not value his captain's life as much as his own.

As he was kind to his men, he was honest also to his trust, & never put a dishonest farthing into his pocket, tho' the nature of his comand gave him many opportunities. A commissary coming down to review the garrison, found the stores all right, but there was a deficiency of four men in Capt: Gilpin's company. On these occasions a fee as hush-money is commonly expected. But the Captain taking no notice of it, the commissary gave him such a hint, as these people know better how to give, than honest men to receive. When the captain understood his meaning, which he did not well comprehend at first, "I have nothing, Sir, to say to

you, said he, on this business. There are four deficiencies in my company it is true : but if your returns are as exact as mine, you can inform the war-office of nothing, but what they already know : and I am ready to receive my complement, when they have men ready to send." This was the first time his garrison had been reviewed ; but the last time he heard of a commissary's fee.

Captain Gilpin was now a more domestic man, than he had ever been : and surely no man was ever more happy in his family ; or made them more happy. His wife, his children, his servants all partook of his benevolence ; and he might justly be called one of the most faultless men alive. He had not the great parts of his father, but he was a man of good sense, and sound judgement, which every action of his life discovered. I never heard even of an impropriety in his behaviour. If he had any foible, it was that of being rather too jocular. Among his friends this jocularity only promoted clearfulness : but among strangers, (especially among such as had not the sense to distinguish a *jest* by its *circumstances*) his meaning was sometimes mistaken. He was dining one day with a lady, who set a very good dinner before him ; but made a thousand apologies for its not being better. The Captain, who did not wish to have been treated with so much form, rallied her a little in return for her apologies ; & told her he would make the best dinner he could ; but that, in fact it was not every plain dish, that suited his palate ; and then ran on a little jocosely in the epicurean character, meaning to throw an ironical ridicule upon it, which he thought she would easily understand. But he had taken a wrong measure of her understanding. She thought him in earnest, & being in company afterwards with a friend of the Captain's, & the conversation leading to him, she said, she thought Captain Gilpin was one of the nicest men, both in his eating and drinking, and other things she had ever known. The gentleman who knew him well, seemed surprized, and said, he always thought, if

there had been one man upon earth, less attentive, than another, to every thing finical, Captain Gilpin was the man. Nay, said she, dont say so ; for he told me himself, he always washed his hands in rose-water. The gentleman smiled ; and the lady found out at length that she had not had the wit to understand him.

He was very intimate with the late Dr. Bolton, dean of Carlisle, who, not residing in his deanery, lent it to him to live in, and shewed him every friendship in his power.

Captain Gilpin's principal amusement, when he had now his time more at command, was painting. He had practised drawing from his child-hood. In his earliest youth his greatest pleasure was to stand near M^r. Read, when he painted for his father. And he continued to paint, & draw, as his cheif amusement through his whole life. As he could not well set up an easel in a camp, or a barrack, he did little more in either than draw with Indian ink, which was then a very tedious process. A little of it rubbed on the back of the left hand, as a pallet, served a whole morning in stippling some part of a drawing ; so trifling was the art at that time ; so little understood, & so ill-calculated to produce an effect.

When he settled at Carlisle, he had a regular painting-room : yet here he laboured under the same disadvantages. The art was then exceedingly low. He had neither painters to converse with ; nor pictures to examine. When he fortunately got a good picture to copy, he made a good picture from it : but as he was seldom so fortunate, his usual method was to paint after good prints, and cheifly history ; from which mode of study no great excellence could be expected. For tho' he drew the outline of his figures with great accuracy—set them well on their legs—expressed the passions well—and touched the extremities with precision, yet when he proceeded to colour (especially as his canvass was often large) it was impossible his tints could please an eye, that was in the least acquainted with the colouring of Reubens, or Vandyke, fr^m whose prints he chiefly copied.

This however may be said with justice, that his pictures were nearly as good as any that were painted in those days in England; and if he was not the best painter, he was probably one of the best gentleman painters of his time. His most esteemed pictures were in miniature. As his drawing was good, the smallness of the size made the deficiency in colouring less observable.

He was a great friend to young artists, & took much pleasure in bringing them forward. When he lived at Carlisle, he had sometimes half a dozen young people, or more, who used occasionally to attend him for instruction. M^r John Smith,* whose coloured drawings are much esteemed, received his first lessons from him. Smith was son to his sister Appleby's gardener, and on that account first fell under his eye. The Captain afterwards recommended him, as a drawing master to a school near Whitehaven; & from thence, as a pupil to his son M^r Sawrey Gilpin, who was kind enough to give him up the latter part of his time, when Lord Warwick proposed to send him to Italy.

Another of his pupils was Robert Smirk esq., who is now a history-painter of eminence, and a royal academician.† He always mentioned Capt. Gilpin, as laying the first foundation of his love for painting.

M^r Head was another, who went afterwards to Rome, where he continued many years, & made his fortune by being of use to his countrymen, & other strangers, who travelled into those parts.‡

* His Views of the Lakes of Cumberland and Westmorland, engraved by Merigot, and published by R. Blamire, 1791-1795, are amongst the earliest and happiest illustrations of the district.

† Robert S. Richard Smirk was, I learn from the Parish Register of Wigton, Cumberland, baptized there, Mar. 25th, 1753. He died in London, Jany. 5th, 1845, at the age of 94 years. Two of his sons, Sir Robert and Sydney Smirk, distinguished architects, (the former the designer of Lowther Castle,) also became Royal Academicians; another son attained a high position as a lawyer.

‡ Guy Head was a native of Carlisle, where his father was a house painter. He is principally known as a copyist, though he painted some original works not without merit. He died suddenly in London, Dec. 16th, 1800.

While captain Gilpin was thus enjoying a quiet retreat at Carlisle, the rebellion broke out in the year 1745. The rebels after defeating the king's forces at Preston-pans, and taking possession of Edingburgh, intended to march as it was supposed, into England. Capt^r Gilpin therefore, who was the commanding officer at Carlisle, thought it right to put his garrison, defenceless as it was, into the best state he could. With this view he threw up some outworks, where he thought the town weakest—fortified his batteries with earth, and sand-bags—stored up provisions,—and drew into the garrison what men he was able. The whole consisted only of two companies of invalids ; and two undisciplined regiments of militia, raised for the occasion, & of little use.

While he was taking these steps, the Duke of Cumberland, to whom he was entirely unknown, sent down an officer of his own to supersede him. Captain Gilpin not taking the least umbrage at having his command removed, after he had had so much trouble, and taken so much pains, continued on the best terms with the new governor, and acted in full concert with him.

The fate of Carlisle is well known. On General Wade's informing the garrison of his inability to send any succour from Newcastle, the two regiments of militia mutinying, left the town ; and the impossibility of defending it with two companies of invalids appeared plainly to all. It was the common cry of the country, that if captain Gilpin had been left to himself, the town had never been given up : and so far indeed it is probable, that as he had more credit with the country gentlemen, who commanded the Cumberland and Westmorland militia, than a stranger could have, he might have kept them better together. The Colonel of the former, M^r Dacre, was his nephew, (his sister Appleby's son) and all the other gentlemen were either his intimate acquaintances ; or well known to him, and he to them. Captain Gilpin himself however, always held a different language. The Duke, he used to say, could not have done

him a greater favour, than by superseding him ; and always spoke of the impossibility of keeping such loose troops together ; or if they could have been kept together, of making any use of them. The British militia was then neither trained, nor exercised. Every soldier pretended to be as wise as his Officer ; and in fact he was as wise, for in the two regiments, there was not an officer, who knew how to draw up a platoon. Captain Gilpin therefore always thought the clamour against the governor for giving up the town was hard usage ; and when he was tryed, after the bustle of the rebellion was over, Captain Gilpin went up to London, a willing evidence in his favour, and brought him honourably off.*

At the time, when the town was given up, and the governour, retiring into the castle with his few old soldiers, many of whom were unable to mount guard, was deliberating whether to hold it out, they who had families in the place could not but be greatly solicitous about them, when the rebels entered. Nobody left a larger pledge behind him than Captain Gilpin ; and as he was shut up in the castle, it was not in his power to afford them the least relief. His wife however, defended herself. When the rebels rushed tumultuously into the town, & were seeking free quarters every where, she boldly went out among them ; and seeing an officer whose countenance she liked, she begged his assistance. He obligingly wrote his name, which was Elphinstone, with a piece of chalk, over the gate, & desired her to shew it, to any who offered to enter. Many came ; but under the protection of the name, she put on a bold countenance ; and bad them enter at their peril : but not

* That Captain Gilpin exerted himself in every way for the defence of Carlisle, is evident from the narrative given in the "Authentic Account of the Occupation of Carlisle in 1745, edited by George Gill Mounsey." The official account of the Court Martial on Colonel Duraud, given in the same volume, fully bears out the statement that Captain Gilpin's generous evidence led to the acquittal of the accused, the very officer who had been sent to supersede him. The Pelhams were the real culprits, in not having provided sufficiently for the defence.

one of them durst. After the rebellion was over, she was very desirous of knowing the fate of her kind protector ; and was glad to find, by the best accounts she could receive, that he got off in safety.

The following anecdote, known but to few, & totally unknown 'till many years after the event, will throw some light on the hasty surrender of Carlisle. The expectation of assistance from Gen^t Wade, who then lay with his forces at Newcastle, was the only thing that enabled the gentlemen of the county, who commanded the militia, to keep their men under arms.—In the mean time the rebels were known to be as ill-prepared for an attack, as the town was for a defence. They had now lain a week before it, & found it was impracticable, for want of artillery, to make any attempt ; and had indeed come to a resolution to abandon the seige.—At this critical juncture the Governour of Carlisle, received Gen^{: Wade's} letter, which tho' not publicly known, was communicated to a few ; among whom was a busy attorney of the name of Holmes. Holmes was then addressing a young lady the daughter of M^r Fletcher, a gentleman of the county ; & to assist his cause, & give himself consequence with his intended father in law, he whispered to him among his other political secrets, the disappointment from Gen^{: Wade}.—The whisper did not rest here. Fletcher frequented a club in the neighbourhood ; where observing, (in the jollity of a cheerful evening) that only friends were present, he gave his company the information he had just received from Holmes. There was in that company, one Salkeld, a gentleman of some fortune near Carlisle, who tho' a known papist was however, at that time, thought to be of very entire affection to the government. This man possessed of such a secret, and wishing for an opportunity to serve a cause, which he favoured in his heart, took horse that very night, after he left the club room, & rode directly to the rebel camp, which he found under orders to break up the next morning. He was carried immediately to the Duke of Perth,

and others of the rebel leaders, to whom he communicated his intelligence, and assured them they might expect a mutiny in the town if they continued before it one day longer. Counter-orders were immediately issued ; and the assurance was confirmed by the event.

After the castle was given up, & the capitulation signed, a variety of difficulties besett those who attempted (as all did who were able) to leave the place. In general the rebel forces were under excellent discipline, & did less mischeif than had been feared. In some cases they were severe. Two ladies, Lady Lovat (who had been obliged to fly from a brutal husband,) and lady Elmer, had taken refuge in Carlisle, and cheifly indeed at captain Gilpin's house, as a place of the greatest security. But, as they were Scotch ladies, they were treated with less indulgence, than the English inhabitants of the town. Their coach-horses were taken from them, and it was long before passes were granted them. Every body however had difficulties to struggle with ; and happy were they, who could get conveyances of any kind. Captain Gilpin got two little uncovered carts ; and leaving his faithful old soldier, whom I have mentioned as having been wounded at the battle of the Boyne, to guard his house, he set out with his family for Whitehaven. He had several small children, and his wife, who was far from well, was very near being confined. A miserable journey they had ; which I shall detail to encourage their posterity not to sink under trifling inconveniences ; & to shew them that they know not what they can bear, till it pleases providence to try them.

It was late in the day, at the end of december, in the midst of a heavy snow, when they began their journey ; conducted by two highlanders, whom the duke of Perth, who commanded the rebel forces, had given them as a guard. But the wind, and the snow were so intensely cold ; and the ground so slippery (the frost just going off) that they found it utterly impossible to proceed further than a few furlongs

beyond the gate of the city. Indeed the children could bear the cold no longer. At a little ale-house, kept by one George Blamire, they stopped; which they immediately saw swarming with highlanders. The Captain however called the land-lord to him, and inquired what he could do for them. The honest man wished to do all he could, but every part of his house, he said, was occupied by these troublesome guests, except a little cock-loft, which he had locked up, & which they had not yet found. To this they were heartily wellcome. The cock-loft was a palace. Their kind land-lord made them a fire; sent them up 2 or 3 bundles of dry straw to lay the children on—a loaf of bread—a lump of cheese, and a bottle of wine. He then locked them up and left them till morning. The Captain with that happy chearfulness, which always looks at the brightest side of an object, congratulated them all on their success: and now, says he, as we are out of hearing, we will all drink a health to King George.

In the morning the thaw was come on, and the snow changed to a heavy rain. Proceed however they must. They could not stay where they were, if it was only because they occupied the only room, w^h their kind landlord had reserved for his own family. So their equipages were made ready; & their two faithfull guards (for nobody is so trusty as a highlander on duty) had taken their stand at the side of each cart; and they were just stepping in, when a file of men came from the duke of Perth to stop Captain Gilpin, and carry him a prisoner to head-quarters.

This was a thunderstroke to the poor travellers. To proceed without him was impossible; and what might be the consequence of this affair, was the subject of the most distressing anxiety.

Under this painful suspence they continued about an hour; when the Captain returning, told them the case. The duke of Perth had been informed, that after the capitulation had been signed, a cannon had been fired from the

castle, which had killed one of his officers. The fact was true; but the captain convincing him, that the thing had not been done where he had any command, but by some ignorant, indiscrete militia man (which was the case) he was politely dismissed.

They then began their journey a second time, the rain continuing to pour down, streaming from them thro' the carts upon the ground. Wigton, which was only ten miles distant, was the farthest they purposed to get that night.

But in this short journey they met with many delays. Several parties of rebels, who had been about the country getting shoes, & other necessaries (for they came in want of every thing) often stopped them, & threatened to take away their horses; but on a short dialogue in erse with the two guards they suffered them to proceed.—But their greatest difficulty arose from the stubbornness of one of their cart horses. The animal was so restive, that it would proceed only at intervals; and about three miles before they got to Wigton, made a full stop, & would by no means be induced to go a step farther. It was taken out therefore, and another sent for to Wigton; during which time, the cart, and its poor shivering contents were obliged to remain in the middle of an extensive common, with a violent & incessant rain pouring upon them.—At Wigton they dismissed their guard, being now intirely out of the line of the rebel march. Here they staid all night, and till a late morning-hour, next day. But on leaving Wigton, & entering on a bleak common, they found the roads so extremely bad from the break^s-up of the frost, and the snow, which had afterwards fallen, that equipped as they were, it was impossible to proceed.

They were obliged therefore to stop short at Brayton-hall the seat of Sir Wilfred Lawson. The family had fled, (for all people thought themselves safer any where than at home) but the house-keeper received them with that hospitality, which she knew her master would wish. A sirloin of beef was immediately laid down for their supper after a

hungry day's march, & they were furnished with every thing convenient & comfortable, which the house afforded.—After they left Brayton-hall, they met with no farther difficulties of any consequence, and arrived safe at their journey's end ; neither old nor young, tho' they consisted in all of 14 people, having received any injury in their health, from the hardships they had undergone.

The rapid march of the rebels into England being attended with less success than they expected, they were obliged to return as rapidly, being pursued by several regiments of Dragoons, under the Duke of Cumberland.

When Captain Gilpin heard, that the duke having driven the rebels into Scotland, had halted at Carlisle, with a view to besiege it, he thought it his duty to wait upon him.

When he arrived at head-quarters, the duke's horses were leading out of the stable ; and his highness was going to ride round the town, and determine in what part to attack it. He told Captain Gilpin therefore, he would take him with him, as his intelligence might be of use. But the Captain who had given his word to the rebels, on the capitulation, that he would not bear arms against them for a year, was in doubt how far his riding round the town with the duke, might be a breach of his word. While the duke therefore was standing by his horse, ready to mount, & giving orders to some people about him, the Captain stepped aside with one of the Officers, an elderly man, & put his difficulty to him. Do you make a point, Sir, said the officer, of keeping faith with rebels ? The person he happened to speak to, was General Hawley ; than whom he could not have consulted a more unprincipled casuist. At the battle of Falkirk he shewed himself a very bad officer ; and during his whole life, & especially by the strange will he made at his death, he shewed himself a very bad man.* Captain Gilpin how-

* This will, dated March 29th, 1749, with four codicils appended of various dates down to May 16th, 1753, was proved March 24th, 1759, by the Executor, William Toovey. The will manifests no glaring injustice, but the mode of expression indicates, as Horace Walpole writes of his character generally, "no

ever, (tho not of Hawley's opinion) thinking that in this case he might strain the point of honour too high, accompanied the duke. But he was pleased neither with the duke, nor the people about him, during this little expedition. He saw several instances of haughtiness and want of sentiment, which disgusted him. One instance in particular hurt his feelings. As they rode in front of a battery, which was playing from the castle to dislodge some troops, which had been stationed in that part, the cheif gunner of Carlisle, whom also the duke had taken with him, rode up to his royal-highness, & respectfully told him he was at that place within the rake of the shot. The duke instead of telling him, he was obliged to him for his information, & should not continue long in the place, turned round with an air of contempt, and cryed out, Here's an officer, who is affraid of a cannon shot! The captain, who was always hurt by a vaunting-speech, observed afterwards to a friend, that he apprehended the black prince, in the same circumstances would have answered in a different manner. And yet in the general estimation of princes, the duke of Cumberland was among the best of them. Greatly superior he certainly was to most of the princes, whom the blood royal of England has since produced. It should be added also in apology, that the surrender of Carlisle (the circumstances of which, were not then understood) had thrown some tarnish upon all the officers of the garrison.

After these troublesome times had subsided, and quietness was again restored, Captain Gilpin returned with his family to Carlisle.

small bias to the brutal." After something like the usual form at the commencement, but with a careful avoidance of all religious or legal phraseology, he proceeds, "But First, I direct and order (that as there is now a peace, and I may die the common way) my carcase may be put any where ; 'tis equal to me ; but I will have no more expence or ridiculous shew, than if a poor soldier (who is as good a man) was to be buried in the hospital. The priest, I conclude, will have his fee ; let the puppy have it. Pay the carpenter for the carcase box."

He then goes on to provide liberally for his sister, and leaves the residue to a certain Elizabeth Toovey, widow, and her children, concluding with—"I hate all priests of all professions and have the worst opinion of all members of the law."

Tho' he had been bred a soldier, had studied his profession, and would no doubt have shewn himself, on all occasions, an excellent officer (as he certainly did at Carlisle, when he had the command) yet he was still more suited to the arts of peace.

There was, at this time in Carlisle, a society of very ingenious men, with whom he was intimately connected. Seldom a day passed without some meeting among them, and seldom an evening closed without a little music, of which they were all exceedingly fond. They were under no club-rules—they never met at taverns; but at each others houses; and oftener at Captain Gilpin's, than at any other, as he could furnish two hands in a concert—himself and one of his daughters, who was a good proficient in thorough base. His house also afforded the most numerous auditory.

The first person in this society whom I shall mention, was Mr. Farish, Vicar of Stanwix, a village just without the walls of Carlisle. He was a very learned man, and possessed more knowledge in *several parts* of learning, than the generality of scholars possess in *any one*. He was well known to many of the literati of his time, yet so insuperably modest, that he would never suffer any part of his knowledge (which he had digested well by deep thinking) to transpire in print. But his great perfection was a most amiable disposition. He was a man of the greatest benevolence; and would have done credit to the times of primitive Christianity.—It may be mentioned also, that at the seige of Carlisle he shewed himself a man of extraordinary courage. He undertook the office of aid-de-camp to the governor; & performed it with a spirit equal to that of any military man in the place.*

* He was instituted Vicar of Irthington in 1745, and Rector of Bewcastle in 1750. The former living he probably resigned upon being presented to the Vicarage of Stanwix, about the year 1765. (See a subsequent page for further personal particulars.) His fourth son, William, became Jacksonian Professor at Cambridge; his fifth, Charles, was the author of the "Minstrels of Winandermere," and "Black Agnes," two poems indicating considerable talent, though not now much known. His daughter, Elizabeth, married her cousin, the Rev. Wm. Gilpin, Rector of Pulverbach, son of the author of these Memoirs.

Another member of this society was the late Dr Brown, author of the *Estimate*, & the *Examination of Lord Shaftesbury's philosophy*. He was a very ingenious man and tho' he had a great share of knowledge himself, his ingenuity was not a little shewn in turning to his advantage every hint he received ; and drawing his own deductions from it. He was on terms of great intimacy with Mr Farish, and their common friends used to say, that he had all the advantages of Mr Farish's reading. He got the substance of it from him in conversation ; and by the help of a good fancy adorning every subject with pleasing images, & beautiful allusions, made it his own.—His friend was of great use to him also on other occasions. He was subject to violent paroxysms of dejection & melancholy : in short, his reason rather sometimes disappeared. At all these times, his friend, who thoroughly understood him, used to sooth & humour his disposition ; and would bring him speedily to himself, which a long period of time c^d not otherwise have done. He was always however, except when these dejected fits came upon him, a very pleasing addition to this little society. Among his other accomplishments he had a turn for poetry, and wrote one or two little pieces—one on Honor—and another on Satyr occasioned by the death of Mr Pope, which did him great credit. The latter of these poems fell into the hands of Dr Warburton ; who finding him a very ingenious man, commenced an acquaintance with him, and soon after gave him a plan to execute, which Mr Pope had formerly drawn out for an epic poem, tho' he had made very little progress in it. The subject was Brutus's landing in Britain, and Dr Brown being pleased with it, pursued it thro' 2 or 3 books. The MS. of the first book was some time in the hands of the author of these memoirs, who admired many parts of it.—But a new pursuit stopped the progress of it. The Dr was recommended to the empress of Russia, to legislate (as he conceived) in her dominions : and had drawn up a code of laws, which was said to have been

an excellent work. But some one probably intimating to the Russian ambassador, that the Dr^r was in many respects a very improper person for the purpose (which was certainly true, & only should have been understood sooner) a sudden, and awkward stop was put to the whole affair ; tho' the Dr^r had even embarked his baggage, and carriage. He seems to have been ill-used ; and the disappointment stung him deeply. He retired to his lodgings in Pall-Mall—fell into one of his old fits of despondency—and his reason being from home, and no friend at his elbow, he armed his right hand with a razor, and put an end to his life.—Happy would it have been for him, if he had known in what his happiness consisted ; and had still continued a member of that little pleasing society at Carlisle ; among whom he was esteemed. But the notice Dr^r Warburton took of him, turned his head ; & following the lead of ambition, he got among the great, where amidst constant disgust, disappointments, & vexations (for he was a man of no temper) he never enjoyed himself afterwards.*

Another gentleman who was sometime a member of this little society, was M^r. Smelt. He was a younger brother ; and had been bred an engineer ; and as captain Gilpin, & he were military men, there was a particular intimacy between them. He was a man of parts—of general knowledge—of great virtue—& polished manners. How just a sense of honour he possessed, may be known from two singular particulars of his life.

* Dr. John Brown was born Nov. 5th, 1715, at Rothbury, where his father was Curate, but was removed at a very early age to the Vicarage of Wigton, upon the latter receiving that preferment. He was a man of the most varied accomplishments. He was skilled in painting, especially in portraiture, and his likeness, painted by himself but much faded, is still preserved in the Vicarage of Wigton. He was an excellent violinist, and the *Essay* by Mr. Charles Avison "On Musical Expression," is said to owe much to his knowledge of that art. His taste for beauty of scenery is manifest from his "Description of the Vale of Keswick," published in 1767, which even Wordsworth praises, as "delineating its attractions with a powerful pencil and the feeling of a genuine enthusiast." His poem on "Honour," is dedicated to Henry, 3rd Viscount Lonsdale. To his play of "Barbarossa," first acted in 1755, he wrote a prologue in the Cumberland dialect, which was spoken by Garrick in the character

He had been engaged to a deserving young lady, some time before it was convenient for him to marry. In the mean time his accomplishments, & character were such, that he was in a particular manner taken notice of by a wealthy family, in which was an heiress of large fortune. But tho' he had opportunities enough given him of opening himself to the young lady (who was very accomplished) he kept perfect silence on the subject; which the family entirely attributed to his honourable sentiments arising from disparity of fortune. To rid him of this difficulty therefore he was given to understand by the father & mother, (who had not the least suspicion of any other obstacle) that they had no objection to his addressing their daughter, if he could gain her consent, which they told him, with a smile, they supposed he would find no very difficult matter—that in short, they wished to see their daughter married to a man, whom they approved—that they conceived him to be a man who would make her happy—& that a disparity of fortune was with them a matter of no consideration. M^r. Smelt who in the innocence of his heart, had not the least suspicion, that any such thing had been intended, was thrown into a violent agitation between love & honor on one side, & friendship & gratitude on the other. He left the house abruptly; & in a letter gave the father an account of his situation.

of a peasant of that county, and to whom the *Biographia Britannica* (second edition) ludicrously ascribes the authorship. He preached the sermon at the consecration, by his friend and patron Bishop Osbaldeston, of the Church of St. James, Whitehaven, July 25, 1753. "In this discourse, our ingenious writer, while he allows and contends for the great expediency of ceremonials in worship, does not seem attached to any particular modes, as designed to distinguish particular sects; but indicates the outward forms of devotion only so far as they are calculated to promote the purposes of religion, and the general union of all the professions of Christianity." In the "*Biographia Britannica*," an extract is given, from a letter written by Mrs. J. B. Gilpin to a friend, relating to Mr. Brown's suicide:—"His distemper was a frenzy to which he had by fits been long subject; to my own knowledge above thirty years. Had it not been for Mr. Farish frequently, and once for myself, the same event would have happened to him long ago. It was no premeditated purpose in him; for he abhorred the thought of self-murder, and, in bitterness of soul, expressed his fears to me, that, one time or another, some ready mischief might present itself to him, at a time when he was wholly deprived of his reason."

The other circumstance was still more to his honor. The family-estate was settled upon him ; his elder brother, falling under the displeasure of his father, having been disinherited. But he dying soon after, left two sons, whom M^r Smelt took under his protection ; gave them both a good education, and when they came of age, settled the estate upon them. His character was such, that he was afterwards recommended to the King as a proper person to be sub-governour to the prince of Wales. He discharged his duty in that office, in a manner highly satisfactory to the King : it is a pity only that the prince profited so little under his instructions.*

* Widely known as Leonard Smelt was in his day, no biographic sketch of him has ever been published, not even at the time of his decease in either the Annual Register or the Gentleman's Magazine, where many a less important, or infinitely less deserving, individual has been recorded at great length and with high eulogy ; and yet his name occurs in every diary and in every volume of letters that has been published illustrative of the epoch and of the society in which he moved. I have been able to gather the few following particulars from the above sources, with the further valuable assistance of a manuscript biographical sketch of Captain Leonard Smelt, which has been kindly placed in my hands by Mr. John Henry Metcalfe, a great grandson of his eldest sister Anne Smelt, wife of the Rev. Thomas Metcalfe, the head of the Northallerton, or younger line, of the ancient family of Metcalfe of Nappa Hall, in Wensleydale.

The sketch above referred to is dated Whitby, 12th Sept., 1800, and is signed F. G. The author was, probably, a member of the family of his son-in-law, Thomas Goulton, Esq., of Walcot Hall, Lincolnshire. I do not find even in the family pedigree, which I have been allowed to consult, any mention of the elder and disinherited brother, though I believe descendants of his are, or lately were, living.

Leonard Smelt was the son of William Smelt of Kirkby Fleatham, in the County of York, Esq., and his wife Dorothy, daughter of Cornelius Cayley, Esq., of York, Counsellor-at-law. He was born about the year 1725. At an early age he became a Cadet in the Corps of Artillery, and eventually attained the rank of Captain. His first active service was during the war in Germany. In the year 1745 he was employed as Engineer Extraordinary ; he was engaged on the fortifications of Newfoundland ; he subsequently planned the barracks at Tynemouth ; and the defences at the mouth of the Tyne were executed under his superintendence. It is probable that his residence at Carlisle commenced at the termination of this engagement, and that his occupation there might be to dismantle the City, and attend to the repairs of the Castle rendered necessary by the vicissitudes it had passed through in the rebellion of 1745. In the year 1771, he was appointed Sub-Governor to the Prince of Wales and the Bishop of Osnaburgh (the Duke of York), and this appointment, if the event had not occurred previously, would enable him to carry out his long deferred marriage with Jane, the daughter of —— Campbell, Esq. In 1776 he resigned this office in consequence of some political intrigues, which, however, did not in the slightest degree diminish the mutual attachment which had sprung up between himself and his sovereign. He was

These gentlemen all residing at Carlisle, were the permanent members of this little society. But it was occasionally frequented by other ingenious men.

induced, as exponent of the King's wishes, to attend a meeting held at York, Dec. 30, 1779, one of the many held about this time to protest against the continuance of the war with the revolted colonies of North America. An account of the proceedings at this meeting, "with notes variorum," was published for the purpose of throwing contempt and ridicule on his remarks, which, it must be owned, were stronger in favour of the royal prerogative than would be listened to with patience at the present day. The misstatements, however, were so gross that Mr. Smelt deemed it desirable to publish his own version of what had occurred. It happened, unfortunately for him, that at a private entertainment given at this time by the Meedames Morritt he had exhibited, with a natural pride, a watch presented to him by the King, and some of the company, noticing that it was much out of time, proposed that it should be set right. Mr. Smelt, however, objected to any such irreverent interference with the royal gift. This gave the poet Mason, at that time precentor at York, who was probably the author also of the pamphlet mentioned above, for he half hints at this in a letter to Walpole, dated Dec. 31st, 1779 (Cunningham's edition of Walpole's Letters, Vol. VII, p. 298), an opportunity to furnish a ridiculous version of the circumstances under which the gift was bestowed, which he did in a poem entitled "King Stephen and his Courtier." Still, apparently, in some position of confidence in the royal household, he was instrumental, in the year 1783, in persuading Fanny Burney to undertake, reluctantly, the office of Wardrobe Woman to Queen Charlotte, and was characterised by her as "an excellent, amiable, and high-bred gentleman." Nay, even Walpole, chary as he usually is of praise, has gone out of his way to do justice to "the singular virtues and character and ignorance of the world, as well as of its depravity, of this estimable person. Happy for the Prince had he had no other Governor, at least no other director of his morals and opinions of government."

In 1786, the King bestowed upon Mr. Smelt a house on the banks of the Thames. In 1789, Madame D'Arblay notes "that the excellent Mr. and Mrs. Smelt have just arrived from their summer tour to their daughters. This was the last visit of that very white-souled and amiable woman, the last time I ever beheld her; but she was particularly well, and there appeared no symptoms of the fatal end so near approaching," so near that she relates to her sister in Feby., 1790,—"The loss of the excellent Mrs. Smelt and all its grief and distress you were informed of at the time. Her very afflicted mate is quite lost without her. Her daughters behave like angels." The last ten years of Mr. Smelt's life were soothed by the assiduous attentions of his daughters, Anne Jesse, the wife of Nathaniel Cholmley of Howsham and Whitby Abbey, Yorkshire, and Dorothy, the wife of Thomas Goulton of Walcot, Lincolnshire. He was preparing for a journey to London, by the particular invitation of George III, who wished to have him near his person as a friend in whom he could trust, when he was attacked by the fatal malady which, in three days, terminated his existence, and the Gentleman's Magazine records under date of Sept. 9th, 1800—"At Langton, Co. York, Leonard Smelt, Esq., lately appointed Deputy Ranger of Richmond Park."

The encomiums lavished on Mr. Smelt in the biographical sketch in the possession of his great grandnephew, Mr. Metcalfe, may be accounted true, and the simple language expressive of the devoted affection he inspired, for it was written for the family circle, and not, like the fulsome epitaphs so often met with, intended for the public eye.

I have already mentioned D^r Bolton, the dean. During his residence at Carlisle he always made one of this set. But he had the Benefice of St Mary's at Reading where he commonly resided.*

M^r Brisco, a clergyman of Whitehaven, was another of these occasional members. He had instituted in the vestry of his own church a society of the same kind, where several ingenious gentlemen used to assemble once a week. M^r Brisco was nearly related to Captain Gilpin, who had a great esteem for him; as indeed every one had, who knew him.^t

D^r Brownrig, a physician of Whitehaven, was another occasional member of this society. He was much esteemed in his profession; and also as a man of letters. His treatise on salt did him great credit. As he had no family he quitted business very early in life, & retired to an estate he had near the lake of Keswick, where his house was much frequented by those who visited that scene of grandeur. As he had a large acquaintance in different places, it was an easy matter to procure letters of introduction to him; to which his hospitable temper unfortunately

* Robert Bolton was a native of Northamptonshire. He was educated at Wadham College, Oxford, and became Chaplain to Sir Joseph Jekyll, Master of the Rolls, also a native of that county. He was promoted to the Deanery of Carlisle in 1735, and in 1738, was presented to the Vicarage of St Mary, Reading. His "Letters on the Choice of Company" are dedicated to his patron, the Earl of Hardwicke. He died in London in 1763, and his funeral sermon was preached at his own church by his stepson, the Rev. Wm. Ullithorne Wray, Vicar of Wenham, Bucks, from the text, "Let me die the death of the righteous." He was interred in the porch of his church, where there are monuments to himself and his wife. On the first is inscribed, "To Robert Bolton L.L.D. Dean of Carlisle and twenty five years Vicar of this Parish who died Nov. 26. 1763 aged 65. This Monument is erected by his widow That the Memory of a Pious Diligent and Affectionate Pastor may not be buried with him. Of his Zeal For a more extensive Influence of Religion and Virtue—His writings are the best Monument." The second slab is to "Frances Relict of Cecil Brother to Sir John Wray Bart Married afterwards to Robert Bolton L.L.D. recorded on the Adjoining Marble Departed in her 81st year May 5th 1776. She was Charity Personified."

+ I regret that I am unable to ascertain anything further of this gentleman, beyond the very bare facts mentioned on a previous page.

paid a more extensive attention, than his circumstances would allow.*

The last occasional member of this little society which I shall mention was Mr Avison, organist at Newcastle. He was a very ingenious man; & esteemed one of the greatest masters of music in his time. His treatise on *musical expression*, is considered, I believe, as the best book on the subject.†

* Two biographies of Dr. Brownrigg have been published; the first in 1801, by his pupil and friend Dr. Joshua Dixon, and the second in 1875, by Dr. Lonsdale; but even the latter, laudatory as it very properly is, fails to be satisfactory owing to the paucity of material; the modesty of Brownrigg having prevented him asserting the value of his discoveries in his lifetime, discoveries which prepared the way for, even if they did not anticipate, those of Priestley and Cavendish. Probably the papers which exist in the possession of his representatives, might still more effectually establish his right, already manifest to the careful examiner of the Philosophical Transactions, to be considered one of the founders of chemical science. But his social excellence has not been, and probably never will be, sufficiently appreciated. His minute powers of observation are well shown in one of his medical memorandum books now before me. Not only does he note all the symptoms of bodily disease, but the mental idiosyncracy of each patient is registered in the sacred obscurity of the Latin tongue. He lived to extreme old age (88), his body, unhappily, surviving his mind. A touching anecdote has been communicated to me of his condition shortly before his death. His nephew, who had been absent many years in India, "on his return to England hastened down to Ormathwaite to see him, not being aware of the decay of his faculties. His uncle could only be made to understand that he was a gentlemen lately come from India, and overwhelmed him with enquiries about himself, but could not be made to comprehend that he was the very man he was asking after." The Parish Register of Plumland has an entry—"1712 March 27 William of Mr Geo. Brownrigg of High Close bapt."; and an elaborate obituary notice in the Gentleman's Magazine records the death, on the 7th of January, 1800, of "the great and good William Brownrigg, M.D., F.R.S., in his 89th year, at his seat at Ormathwaite near Keswick." The writer, evidently an intimate friend of the deceased, enlarges upon the virtues of his wife Mary, the daughter of John Spedding of Whitehaven, and the happiness of his domestic life; and accuses Benjamin Franklin in round terms of having passed off as his own some of the Doctor's discoveries. Brownrigg's grandnephew and heir, Lord Ormathwaite, takes his title from the Doctor's ancestral seat.

† The place of Avison's birth is unknown. He was appointed Organist of St. Nicholas Church, Newcastle-on-Tyne, in October, 1736. The publication of his "Essay on Musical Expression," in 1752, made him famous, partly owing to the real value of the Essay, but mainly to the notoriety which arose out of the bitter attack made on it by Dr. Hayes, Professor of Music at Oxford. In his "Reply," which was as personal as the attack, Avison owned that he had been assisted in the composition by his "learned friends," who were supposed to have been the poet Mason and Dr. John Brown; with both of whom he was, no doubt, on the most intimate terms; for Mason was Precentor of York, and Brown was Vicar of the Church to which he was Organist. The Essay has

With all these gentlemen Captain Gilpin lived on terms of the greatest intimacy. They all valued him highly: & tho' he could not himself be called a learned man; yet he was a man of considerable information, in history especially; & knew well how to value and enjoy the conversation of learned men. He had also that prudence—those pleasing manners—and that respectability about him, to which they all paid a deference; & which tended greatly to regulate such improprieties; as in the heat of argument, are sometimes apt to break out in the debates of the learned.—Dr. Brown in particular, who was a very warm man, often wanted those little friendly checks, which are necessary to keep the opposite sides of a question in proper temper.

This agreeable society, which threw an air of elegance over the whole town of Carlisle, was however at length broken up. Its different members were carried away by different pursuits. M^r: Smelt was sent for to court, to attend the prince. Dr. Brown, thinking his situation at Carlisle too obscure, went to London to pursue his fortunes under the auspices of Dr. Warburton; and Captain Gilpin about the same time, was removed from Carlisle.

As it plainly appeared that Carlisle in its present state, was incapable of making any defense; & as it was hoped it never would again be wanted as a frontier town, the government resolved intirely to dismantle it; & with this view ordered the two invalid companies with which it was garrisoned, to march to Plymouth.

This was no doubt a prudent & economical measure: but yet was attended, like many other measures, good on

been praised by Dr. Burney and Sir John Hawkins. Avison's master, Geminiani, was a rival of Handel, and was wont to say, in depreciation of that great composer, "Charley Avison shall make a better piece of music in a month's time." The music which Moore has "wedded to immortal verse" in his two sacred songs, "Sound the Loud Timbrel," and "Weep not for those," is by Avison.

He died at Newcastle, May 10th, 1770, and was buried in St. Andrew's churchyard, where there is a monument to his memory.

the whole, with individual hardship. The old soldiers of whom the garrison consisted, had conceived themselves fixed for life; & were in a manner incorporated with the inhabitants of the town. Many of them had fallen into little employments, which they exercised when off duty. The wives of others took in washing and sewing: & many had settled their children comfortably around them. All of them lamented, that they were now to be carried 400 miles from what they esteemed their home, and were to have new connections to make, and new businesses to seek, at their advanced time of life.

Their good Captain however did all he could to make things easier to them. The cases of such, as were most hard, he represented to the War-office; and got them discharged; and at the head of the rest, he set out himself, to see they had all the comforts, which their long march would allow. He did not regularly go their pace; but making little excursions here and there, generally met them when they halted at night, & enquiring into the difficulties of the past day, provided better for the following one. He marched into Exeter on a saturday, where he spent the sunday following; & used to mention a little difficulty he got into there.

He went in the morning to the cathedral, & after service attended the sacrament. Dr Lavington, then bishop of Exeter, happening to be at church that day, & seeing a soldier at the sacrament, which he probably thought rather singular, sent the verger to him after service, with his compliments, & an invitation to dinner. At table the conversation turn'd on methodism, which was then beginning to make a noise; and some things were said, which the Captain thought rather harsh. He was the farthest of any man, from holding any enthusiastic opinions; & joined very freely with the company in condemning all pretences to sudden illumination—feeling the immediate impulse of the spirit—and other opinions, which he thought were not warranted by scripture. But he could not help defending the methodists in other

respects. They had a happy manner of addressing themselves, he thought, to the lower people; and therefore often did good in manufacturing towns, by alarming the profligate, & making them more serious. He had been much, he said, at Whitehaven, where great coal works are carried on; & it was the general opinion there, that the methodists had introduced a seriousness, which had not been observed before.—Some time afterwards, giving an account of this conversation to a friend, he was informed, he could not have entered on a more unlucky topic; for the bishop was a great adversary to the methodists, & had written & published against them.*—The Captain said, he knew nothing of that, but had indeed observed, the bishop did not answer him with that cordiality w^h he expected. He should have been very sorry, he said, to have advanced any thing, that should have appeared *pointed*: otherwise, he thought, he had said nothing that might not have been said with propriety any where.

The Captain did not take his family with him to Plymouth, but thought it right to make some stay there himself, before he asked leave of absence. Among the officers of the garrison he met with several of his old military acquaintance; and thro' them had an easy introduction to as much company as he chose to keep. He did not find there such polished minds as he had left at Carlisle, as indeed they were not every where to be found; but he knew enough of the world to expect not more from it, than it can give, and when he did not find things accommodated to his wish, he had the philosophy to accommodate himself to what he found. Too much joviality was what he most complained of. The society at Carlisle consisted only of a tea-drinking set.—He used to tell a story of a disgrace, w^h befell him in a mixed company at Plymouth; and which, he said, humbled his

* Bishop Lavington wrote "The Enthusiasm of Methodists and Papists Compared. London, 1746." He was also the author of "The Moravians Compared and Detected," of which Southey (Life, Vol. II, page 345) writes not unfavourably.

pride not a little. A dispute arising about the presidency of some jovial meeting, it was proposed that he who had had the most children by one woman, should take the chair. Gentlemen, said the Captain, after some little pause, I am but a stranger among you ; but I suppose nobody here will dispute that honour with me ; telling the company at the same time, that he had had 16 children by the same good woman. On this a short silence ensuing, he was getting up to take the chair. Hold Sir, said a little gentleman at the lower end of the table, who had been lying perdue, I must dispute that point with you. Pray Sir, said the captain, how many children have you had ?—A quarter of a hundred, Sir, said the little man, & strutted past him in triumph to the chair.—

The country about Plymouth furnished the captain with much amusement, & employment for his pencil. The landscape was new to him. He had lived cheifly among lakes & mountains both in England & Scotland ; & tho' he had lived often also in the neighborhood of the sea, yet he found here a peculiar kind of sea-coast, in a variety of little creeks & bays, which are not every where to be met with. He made many drawings of them ; 2 or 3 of which were highly finished, as his manner was, & very beautiful.

Having spent about a year at Plymouth, he got leave of absence, & returned to Carlisle. But age coming now upon him, he found these journeys w^d be very inconvenient ; & he had many reasons not to make Plymouth the place of his abode, so he got liberty to retire on full pay (the lieutenant, who did his duty having a promise to succeed him in his commission) and lived altogether at Carlisle. The agreeable society he formerly knew there, was now dissipated : but new connections arose. M^r. Farish had married one of his daughters, and a little family of grandchildren was growing up, which greatly amused him.

It may be parenthetically remarked this excellent man dyed on the 24th of feb: 1793. The manner of his death

corresponded with his amiable & peaceful life. He had long been in a declining state ; & tho' he never kept his bed, used now & then in the day time to rest on a pallet in his parlour. One day when he did not appear worse than ordinary, he lay down ; & taking hold of his wife's hand, who sat by him, said, he wished he could fall asleep. In less than two minutes, with the quietness of a child going to rest, he expired.

Tho' Captain Gilpin was now in years, yet having been blessed with an excellent constitution, he still enjoyed an extraordinary degree of health. His friends however thought he took great liberties with himself ; not in the way of excess, for he was always a temperate man ; but in the irregularity of his exercise. Painting & fishing were his favourite amusements. Both he carried to excess. He would sometimes sit all weeks without stirring from home, if engaged on any favourite subject in his painting room. At other times his exercise in fishing was as violent. He would toil for a whole day perhaps without taking food : and as he always waded the rivers, which he fished, he would continue the whole day wet, & dry by turns, as it happened, without any inconvenience ; for these liberties with his constitution never seemed to hurt him. He was a man of no indulgence ; & paid little attention to seasons, or weather—except in one instance. As he grew in years, he was disconcerted with a partial air ; & tho' he could still brave a storm, he could not bear an open window. It unluckily happened, that his wife was as fond of introducing air, as he was of excluding it. This, now and then, occasioned a contest between them, thro' a desire of accomodating each other. When they were together, she was sollicitous to have the window shut, & he as sollicitous to have it open.

These two faithful friends had now lived 50 years together in perfect happiness with each other. The time was now come when it pleased God to separate them. She began to decline about the beginning of the year 1772, and grew

gradually worse till the february of the succeeding year, and then her end appeared evidently approaching. As her strength decayed, her resignation encreased. His tenderness over her may easily be conceived from his character. Nothing c^d exceed it. Their parting scene, was made, thro' an accident, a very affecting one to both. As he sat by her bed, a few hours before she expired, she desired him to take up a prayer-book which lay at hand, and read the 23^d psalm. *Little exertions* of this kind, in the moment of tenderness, are often painful tasks. When we speak *our own language*, we can check, and vary the voice with our feelings : but under a *continued exertion* it often begins to quiver, and is lost.—It was so on this occasion. When he came to the passage, *Tho' I walk thro' the valley of the shadow of death*, his tender feelings got the better of him ;—his voice was totally intercepted by them ; and notwithstanding all his efforts to check the emotion, he burst into a flood of tears. She, who had probably on no occasion, ever known his manly heart so much subdued, was on her part greatly agitated : her thoughts which had been composed, and had taken their direction another way, were now brought back in a flow of tenderness. She begged it might infuse joy through his heart, as it did through hers, that at that awful moment she could say, never woman had been more blessed with a friend, than she had been with him. *My thanks,—my gratitude*, said she, is poor : but may the Almighty recompence, and bless you for ever & ever ! This was the last tender scene between them. In, a few hours after this, she expired. What his sentiments were, and what the state of his mind on her death, may be seen in the following letter to his son, soon after her burial.

My dear son,

Carlisle April 3^d 1773.

I received a letter from you a few days ago, and another from my grandson John. Your good mother's death was not unexpected. I had perceived her growing weaker & weaker, for these last twelve months. But I w^d not have you think I give myself up

to grief. I have lost her for the present, it is true; but I thank God I am greatly supported: I look forward. I remember her in every thing I see: but the remembrance brings joy. I loved her when a boy; a school-boy; she a girl, two years younger. We agreed: we kept our agreement. Seven years united us. Her sole endeavour was to make me happy. She made me happy. These are pleasing ideas. I talk with her every day and return the same kind answers, which I know she herself would have given me.—I enjoy as good health, as most people of my years: but how long I shall survive the good woman, who is gone before me, God only knows. May we all make it our sincere endeavour to live so here, that we may happily meet together hereafter! O happy day (the thought is joyous) when fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, friends &c. shall be united in love, & happiness for ever & ever! May God grant this happy meeting to us all!

I am,

My dear son

Your affec: father

J B G.

About three years after this he was seized with an inflammation in his bowels, which carried him off in a few days.* He was buried by his wife, in St Mary's church-yard at Carlisle.

D^r. Wilson was then dean of Carlisle, & it happening to be his turn to preach in the Cathedral the sunday after Captain Gilpin's funeral, he thought it only a just tribute to the memory of so excellent a man to pronounce his eulogy from the pulpit. He did it wholly unsolicited; and indeed without the knowledge of the family: but it was well taken of course by them; and by the whole town of Carlisle also; for the Dean expressed, not only his own, but the sentiments of all, who knew the amiable example he recommended to his audience.

I cannot forbear inserting here a dream, which the

* His death is thus announced in the Cumberland Pacquet of March 14th, 1776:—"On the 5th inst., at Carlisle, Capt. Gilpin of that place; a gentleman universally respected for his great humanity and benevolence as well as for his great proficiency in the polite arts. He was supposed to have paintings of his own execution worth £1,000."

Captain had the night on which his wife dyed. He thought he had lost her; & sought her with great anxiety during *three years*. At the end of that time he found her in a splendid assembly, dressed in a wedding-garment. The dream made no other impression on those to whom he told it, than as the emotion of a mind strongly affected with a beloved object. But when his death happened precisely at the end of the *third year*, as the dream had foretold, some superstitious people thought it had the air of prophecy; but all however considered it as a remarkable coincidence. The authenticity of the story depends on the veracity of his daughter, Mr^r Farish, a woman of exemplary integrity, who heard her father relate the dream; & his posterity may consider it in what light they please.

The following letters give some more particulars of the death of these excellent persons. They were written by two of their daughters who were on the spot at the time. The former relates to their mother's death, the latter to their father's.

Carlisle March 29. 1773.

I know you will want to be informed of every particular of the great event, which has happened among us. You have no doubt been told of many particulars; and I may hit on the same; but if I do, they will bear to be twice read. It has been a truly noble scene from first to last; and my mind loves to dwell on it, in a kind of exultation to see how human nature can be supported in its last distress, when the heart is right. Tho' my loss is great, & greater than I think yours, (as being on the spot, I must feel it every day) yet my gain, I hope, is more than my loss: for more instruction could not be given by parents to a child. A mother on her death-bed, sensible, pious & resigned; saying & doing every thing in the most proper manner,—willing either to live or dye; chusing the latter if it might please God. A father, seeing daily the decay of his dearest friend; both awaiting with equal resignation the inevitable stroke; yet both endeavouring to cheer each other. No down-cast looks, no formal parting in words, but from an inward rectitude of heart, each striving, which should with greater cheer-

fulness submit.—My mother always thought this sickness would be her last; & endeavoured to prepare us for it by every little hint. She begged that to all her absent children, I would say every thing that was kind from her. That there was so happy an union amongst us, gave her inexpressible pleasure.—She ordered such and such things to be done, when she was dead—such & such messages to be delivered &c. She spoke of her great hopes in her grand children; & the happy train she should leave us all in; putting up devout prayers for us all.—She never to the last, would suffer any body to do ought for her, which she could do for herself; nor would she suffer any one to sit up by her, *to her knowledge*. When my father, during the last fortnight was prevailed on to leave the room, H—, unknown to my mother, lay in his little bed; & Biddy & Sukey sat up their turns about, without her knowledge. When we left her, she always bad the maid who was left in the room, go to bed, and she pretending to obey her sat out of sight.—A night, or two before she died, when all was silent, and she thought asleep, Biddy heard her, in a soft low voice, say, *will my love come to-night? will my love come to-night?* 3 or 4 times over: and after a short pause: *But thy will be done.* The night after Sukey sat up; and heard her about the same time of night, and in the same soft tone, repeat the same words. Sukey thought she meant my father: but Biddy told her the next morning what she meant. The next day, which was sunday, she called both Biddy and Sukey to her bed side, and said, *If any thing happens to me in the night, dont disturb any body. You are two old girls, you will not be afraid to let me dye beside you. It is my intention to slip away, if I can,—that is, if it pleases God.* Accordingly in the morning her *Love came*, and she *slipt away*, and left us all.—Your dear, affectionate William never chose to write, but when he could with truth say, she was better. But alas! these betternesses were not what we elder folks could build much upon. Nor did I suppose you would, as I promised to write if there was any room to hope. But they gave great spirits to all the young ones.—The dignity of my father on the funeral-day is not to be described. He attended my mother to the grave, with a train of eight grand-children. More propriety of behaviour, to my thinking, could not be in man. He is now become pretty much the same in *appearance* as he ever was. He talks of the *good-woman* as he calls

her, as if she was only in the next room ; and says it is his greatest pleasure to talk, and think of her. He wears two rings, which she wore, her wedding-ring, and that which you gave her, and looks at them both with pleasure.—Thus you see the scene carried thro' most compleatly in all its parts ; and may this admirable pattern of resignation in both our parents, teach us *their art!*

I am &c.

—“The event is now over, I was alone in the room with him, when he died. As nearly as I can recollect them, I will repeat to you his last words. He told me, a little before his death, that he felt its approach, & that he rejoiced in the thought. For tho' I thought it my duty, said he, to be cheerful for the sake of you all : yet the world has been nothing to me, since I lost your dear mother.—But we will soon meet, to part no more. The sorrows, & afflictions of this life are now over : and tho' my pain is acute at this moment, I would not exchange my situation with any earthly being ; in the blessed hope of those joys, *w^h eye hath not seen, nor ear heard.* I meet my God and my Redeemer.—Do you, my dear girl, never forget this scene. Nothing but doing your duty can support you in such a moment as this.—These were his last words : but no language can paint his countenance, as he uttered them. Death had no terrors for him. As I hung over my dying father, I felt a wish for nothing but that firm faith, & animated hope, which he possessed. May the remembrance be lasting of the death of such a parent !

I am,
&c &c.

The following inscription marks the grave of these two excellent persons.

SACRED TO THE MEMORY
OF CAPT^N JOHN BERNARD GILPIN,
AND OF MATILDA, HIS WIFE;
WHO LIVED TOGETHER IN CONJUGAL FELICITY,
FIFTY YEARS;
AND BEQUEATHED TO THEIR POSTERITY,
(THAT BEST OF ALL LEGACIES)
A MOST AMIABLE, AND INSTRUCTIVE
EXAMPLE.
SHE DIED IN THE YEAR 1778,
AT THE AGE OF 70.
AND HE IN THE YEAR 1776,
AT THE AGE OF 75.

Among the papers found in Captain Gilpin's drawers were many of his wife's letters; which had been written at various times, during his several absences. As she was a woman of an excellent understanding, & of refined sentiments, her posterity may be pleased with a few extracts from them. Love-letters may be *amusing*, tho' hardly *instructive*; but the sentiments of *married love* may be both. The tenderness, & affection of the wife, & mother, joined to the piety, & resignation of the christian, are all happily blended together in these letters. As they have no date but the day of the month, when they were written, I can only guess at the order, in which they lye; tho' as they are meant to ascertain no facts, it is of little consequence.

1.

May 25.

—I please myself much with this opportunity of writing to you; because the bearer will deliver my letter himself; & I shall have the pleasure of hearing, when he returns, how you look,—& what you said to him—and what sort of a place you incamp on—& several other things which I wish to know: for notwithstanding all my resolutions to make myself easy, I shall have many a thought about you. The time of year makes me fear a return of your ague.—Your being incamped on so dismal a spot, makes me dread your being exposed to many hardships.—And, if not, (what I most dread) to many dangers; tho' you will not, in any of your letters, give me the least hint of them. Yet I know my fears are not groundless: I know you are to engage those highlanders & make them, if possible, more subject to the laws. But under all this I am, & I hope, you are, supported by that Almighty Being, who has created & preserved us; & who I trust will deliver us from all dangers from what kind soever.—I do not forget to recommend you to his care, and when my concern for you sits heaviest upon me, I find great relief in making my application to Him. My He guide & protect you from every evil! and whatever your share of this undertaking be, may he enable you to go thro' with it!—I would not have you uneasy on my account: I live here free from all care & trouble, (except what I have

mentioned). It is true I am in a condition not entirely without fears : but I doubt not by God's assistance, to get over this, as I did the other.—If it be a boy, what name shall I give it? If you say nothing, I will indulge my own fancy, and call it, John Bernard—that name has something in it peculiarly charming to me.*—It would please you to see how fond little William is of his mama. He kisses me a hundred times a day, & strokes my face. He is often my companion in my closet, where I shew him his papa's picture, & bid him kiss it, which he does as if he were acquainted with the original ; & when I ask him whose picture it is? he clasps his little hands upon his face ; & calls it *Coy*; for this is his word for every thing that pleases him.—Pray do not neglect writing to me as often as possible. Your letters never fail of bringing comfort to your

Matilda.

2.

Dear Sir,

the beginning of this letter was intended for another gentleman : but on my sitting down, I found myself indisposed to write to any body but you—you whose image is never from my thoughts—whose conversation fills my mind with a thousand beautiful ideas, which otherwise had been utter strangers to me. You first taught me that religion does not consist in forms & ceremonies ; nor in being of this or that church. It was you who first taught me to think violent party zeal no virtue ; & that a good patriot might possibly be a man of moderation & temper. To you I owe my knowledge of history, & love of painting. And it is to your practical philosophy I owe my present ease & chearfulness of mind, under the painful circumstance of being parted from you. With a grateful heart I acknowledge all these obligations to you, & am naturally led from the consideration of them, to draw a comparison between my present circumstances, & what they might have been with a certain great man ; who I believe is this day elected at Carlisle.† He would have made me richer, & greater. You have made me wiser and

* Margaret Maria, their second child, was born at Scaleby Castle, where her mother was living, June 26th, and baptized July 2nd, 1725.

† John Hylton, to whom the allusion is made, was elected M.P. for Carlisle in 1727, 1733, and 1740 ; the first is, probably, the occasion referred to.

better. He could have shewn me the vanities of the world, & by that means have enlarged my wishes. You have taught me to set bounds to them, by shewing me the more lasting & substantial joys of married love.

3.

April 29.

Your charming letter came safe to my hands ; & was read several times, & still with new pleasure. I know not what return to make you for it. I can, it is true, in my turn entertain you with rocks, & caves & rivers (for, on that day in spite of my resolution to the contrary, I was prevailed upon to go to Corby) but what is all that compared to those elevated thoughts you express in yours. I must confess to my own shame that nothing *I* saw, moved *me* to such gratitude. My thoughts were then employed, as for the most part they are, in thinking of you, & wishing for you. I beheld these fine scenes with little pleasure, and often turned my eyes to the road I fancied you took th^t day ; & wished myself with you on a cold, bleak hill, rather than in these fine walks. I do not envy the possessor of them. No, my dear soldier, I envy none in the world, but those who enjoy your company. After I had passed thro' all these fine scenes, in my own private thoughts, I preferred you even in a cottage to this whole estate with any additions, & any other man in the world, for its master.—Thus have I laid before you what my thoughts were on that day ; and tho' they are such as I think unblameable ; & such as I would not for the world be without, yet they are far short of those you give me the compliment of in yours, which I can only say, are such as I do intirely join in, & I hope ever shall. Let us only strive as much as we are able, to put them in practice, & I doubt not, every thing will happen to us for the best.

4.

Oct^r. 13.

—As I have given up all hopes of seeing you at Scaleby this winter, I shall make ready to come to Stirling, as soon as you tell me you have got lodgings. I would not put you to the expence of coming for me. It will be no hardship to me, to travel 3 or 4 days with only a servant or two, when I have the prospect of being with you, in so short a time. I do not yet know what way I shall go.

My brother G. offered me the chariot, but told me I could not go so soon as I intended ; for I must wait the making of a new pair of wheels ; which I am very unwilling to do ; but as my poor little Betty* is to be one of my fellow travellers, I do not see what way I can go without it. My mother is so very desirous of our staying at Scaleby, & shews so much uneasiness at my going away, that I avoid speaking of it before her.—Let us not make ourselves uneasy at the crosses & disappointments of this life. They are transitory as well as the pleasures of it. We & they in a short time shall have an end. Let us endeavour after a life preferable to this ; which if we attain, tho' through all the troubles, & vexations this world is able to give us, yet we shall find our account in it, & be happy.—Let me know how soon you expect me. I have not yet been at Whitehaven, & Broughton-tower. I can hardly avoid going, tho' my stay will be very short. But in that & every thing else, I shall be determined by your answer to this. I am not able to tell you, the joy I feel at the hopes of seeing you. I shall count every moment, ten, till that happy time brings me to Stirling.

5.

December 18.th

After a very disagreeable expectation I received your charming letter, which gave me as much pleasure, as I am capable of without you. Every word in it, was so pleasing, that I read it several times over with new delight. Give me leave to say you have added to the beauty of the author by transcribing his lines. I wish it were in my power to answer you in the same language. But as it is not, I only beg you would turn to the kindest, tenderest things she ever said to *her* husband ; & imagine them to be spoken by me. I dare venture to say she could not love more than I do.—But I hope we shall better keep those high commands, than they. We are both sensible how much it is our duty, & our interest ; so I trust we shall make it our constant endeavour.—You tell me how lonely you are ; and how great a share of your thoughts I possess. I can be a very good judge of both, from what I feel in myself. The prospect of living this winter without you, is very melancholy ; & I know not

* Elizabeth, their third child, was born at Scaleby Castle, Nov. 16th, and baptiz'd, Nov. 20, 1726.

how to get it over. I think continually of you ; & sometimes wonder, that we did not submit to any inconvenience rather than part for so long a time.—It is reported here, that Captain C. was ordered out with a party to take some prisoners, but excused himself, & desired some other gentleman to take his post. I hope it is not true, & should be glad to have it in my power to contradict it. Let me know in your next.

6.

May 16.

I will endeavour to be easy ; & try to take your advice, & lay all our happy hours in the balance with this one inconvenience.—But I doubt it will not do.—Must I after all my boasted courage be forward to own my fears ? How can I think of an encampment in the Highlands where you must needs be exposed to many dangers, without uneasiness ? Yet I will conquer my fears. I will remember that you were not sent into y^e world for no other purpose than to make me happy. Why should I then murmur, & think myself hardly dealt with, that you with others, should be called to your duty. No ! I will strive against that weakness, however difficult it may seem to me at present. This may be a designed trial of our faith, & reliance on that Providence, which has hitherto protected us, and brought almost every thing to pass, as we could have wished it. Let us not then think this separation unsupportable ; but strive to bear it as we ought ; not spending our time in fruitless lamentations ; but rather in prayers for each others safety, and preservation. You bid me say something that will be comfortable to you. I do not know any thing, that will be more so, than your knowing, that I endeavour to make the best use of affliction.

7.

Nov^r 30.

You are now I hope at Fort William, a place more at present, the object of my envy, than any other part of Great Britain ; which they may wonder at, who do not know, my best, and most valuable friend on earth is in all probability fixed there for twelve long months. Oh ! were it possible to transport myself and little flock into your barracks with a wish, you should not be another day without us. Give me leave to indulge this chimerical notion one

moment. Methinks I see you overjoyed & in a bustle to entertain us—overthrow your table—your books—your pencils—your shells & snuff-box, in a promiscuous heap upon the floor, which for a while are neglected & left by you & me for the little pilferers to gather up, as their choice directs. But here my airy flight must end ; and I must recollect that rivers, mountains, lakes & dreary plains, and inhospitable wilds lay between us.—I dare no longer indulge this poetic fire, lest it burn me. I confess I did intend a poetical description of I know not what, and to have introduced my two constant companions, conjugal Love and faithful Friendship, smoothing my way to you, and making every difficulty disappear ; but you must take the intention for the performance ; & by the help of your imagination, make out the sketch yourself—I have just received your letter from Fort William ; which is in all parts agreeable, except that part, in which you fear your being sent to the isle of Mull. I never heard of any troops being sent there, nor know by what means money is to be made by the officer who commands them. But this I know, if the manner of getting money be dishonest you will have nothing to say to it. This isle of Mull, runs in my head. What are you to do there ?—How long are you to stay ? Who is so happy as to be your companion ? Or have you none ? which I rather fear.—How melancholy must that place be without one to speak to. Oh ! that it were in my power to relieve your solitary hours ! how gladly would I quit all company (except my young charge) to share every hardship with you, & every danger, and do every thing in my power to amuse you. Love, gratitude, & friendship inspire me with a thousand kind wishes for your health and safety. May every thing that is good and happy be your lot.

8.

April 26.

Your letter, with the 5 seals, came safe to my hands, & was received with the greatest pleasure. I am much pleased to find that sympathy, (which I still desire may be continued between us) is not lost. It might be at the same hour, in which you wrote those just reflections on true happiness, that I was saying something to you, to the same effect ; tho' not so much to the purpose. My letter was thrown aside, with design never to send it : yet as I find some thoughts in it resembling yours, I am determined to inclose it in

this.—It is indeed a melancholy reflection, tho' I fear too true a one, that there are many in the world, who have no feeling for the sufferings of others but rather look with contempt, than pity on them; and do not even feel an *inclination* to relieve them. With what face shall those wretches, at the last day, ask mercy at the hands of their Almighty judge, whose laws they have so greatly transgressed: for surely there is no rule in scripture more plainly expressed, than that of relieving our necessitous brethren. What shall we say then to those, who even build their own greatness on the ruin of others?—But why do I employ myself in finding out the faults of others; and not rather in seeking after my own? and endeavouring at any rate to get clear of them, in order to qualify myself for that happiness, *which is as large as our wishes, and as lasting as our souls*; an expression which I have often with great pleasure heard *your father* use.—But tho' I sincerely join with your wishes, that we may be enabled to attain that everlasting rest—yet alas! while I abhor wickedness in others, I indulge it in myself. I am far, very far, from what I should be, or what I really believe you to be. You notwithstanding the temptations, and bad examples you daily meet with, still preserve that innocence, which I hope will be for ever your companion. Whilst I tho' daily amongst the most innocent, and untainted company, am still committing faults, for which I condemn myself, tho' my resolution is too weak to oppose them. It is true I have never been guilty of those notorious sins, y^t are marked by the world for wickedness. But to what is it owing, that I have not? Not to myself, but to Almighty providence, which has preserved me thro' great and violent temptations.— Could you see my heart when I receive a letter from you, you would as seldom as possible deny it that joy. Don't call it upbraiding, when I say, I have only had eight letters from you since we parted, which is now ten months. I know not how many you have received from me in that time; but if they be fewer, there is more excuse for your

M. G.

9.

March 2^d

—I wonder what kind of form the poets would give *Absence*. Were I to paint it, its appearance should be more ugly, if possible than the head of Medusa. Ten thousand snakes are not so terrible

to me, as the thoughts of absence. When will it have an end ? But that is a question I can soon resolve. Never in this world. To meet, and part no more, belongs to the bliss above. What signifies then all this world, & all its empty honours, & unsatisfying riches—this gay, deluding bauble, that dances awhile before us ; and then is lost for ever ? Let us despise it with all its gaudy allurements, & fix on a happiness as lasting as our souls ; of which we cannot fail, but by our own neglect.—You will perhaps say, I despise the world as the fox did the grapes. It may be so. We are unacquainted with our own hearts ; but I flatter myself these are my real notions of true happiness.—I have impatiently waited these three posts for a letter from you, and am really sometimes ready to think you have not the same pleasure in writing to me as formerly. But I will not think so. Oh ! if I had any real ground of complaint against you, at how great a loss should I find myself for language to express it.—Your little folks are all well & cheerful, except when they think & talk of you. Then they put on their little grave faces in complaisance to me, and wish for you at home. M.* often says, she cannot imagine what makes her papa stay so long. She does not think the king himself has any right to make him stay ; and wonders how people can be so cruel as to keep him from his wife & children.

10.

May 7. 1732.

— You say, my love has carried me too great a length in your praise. It may be so : for I confess it to be a kind of *self-praise*. Nor do I know at what a pitch my vanity on that score may not arrive. Therefore it is fit to curb it. But your endeavours must needs prove ineffectual ; for I should not think you deserved so much, were I not assured you did not think it yourself. But pray why, my dear, do you pursue the same method you blame in me ? Consider how vanity lies in my heart, like unquenched embers ; and the least breath of *yours* will blow them into flame.—So you have at last met with M^t Campbell ; who by your account is the same agreeable man, he used to be at Stirling. His mother tells me

* M. is probably Mercy, born at Scaleby Castle, July 26th, and baptized, July 28th, 1728.

she is in hopes of seeing him this summer at home.—Have you any thoughts of being at Scaleby this summer ? If you go to Scotland next spring, perhaps you may think fit, to take us all along with you, as it will be about the time of our removing from this place. But how distant is that thought ? Who knows where you, or I or any of us may be at that time. Why should we then be anxious about any thing in this world that does not *immediately* concern us. We often see our best designed schemes, broken ; and at an end by the changes of a few weeks.—Your little M. often advises me to write to the king, that you may have leave to stay at home ; and upon my telling her, I should not know what to say, she answers, What cannot you tell him we have no other papa, and you have no other husband ; and is not that enough to make him keep somebody else ; & let him come to us ? Tell him he may get enough, that will make as good soldiers, for my papa is so good, I am sure he does not love fighting.—I hope you will not let this letter fall into the hands of any one, who does not know the pleasures of these little triflers ; and pray do you follow my example. Write whatever comes into your head. May every blessing attend you ! may you still be happy—still be good—it is impossible you can ever violate the love and friendship, you profess to your

M G.

11.

August 12.

— You will be surprized to receive this letter by Lady Stormont. I have had the honour, during the assizes, of being several times with her, and her daughters ; and think them all agreeable women. My sister and I attended them, one day, to court ; where we had the pleasure to hear the celebrated M^r Murray* plead. I need only say, he excells as much in his way, as my favourite preacher does in his, to intimate to you the satisfaction I received on hearing him.—to which was added the satisfaction I received at seeing a worthy mother highly delighted, on hearing his applause on all sides

* This was the future Earl of Mansfield, fourth son of David, fifth Viscount Stormont. The date of this letter must be prior, though perhaps not much, to November, 1742, when he was appointed Solicitor-General.

without a possibility of being flattered by any body. She appeared to me to behave on the occasion with moderation and sensibility.— If you have an opportunity of shewing these ladies any respect, I doubt not you will make use of it. They told me they were going directly to Dalkeith, & offered to take care of a letter to you.— I hope the review will soon be over, & you soon after with your little flock, & your

M. G.

12.

July 13.

Dont be angry, whilst I confess I am not entirely vanquished by your persuasions, tho' they are of the best kind ; and do in some measure make me easy. Yet still I think my proposal was not so much out of the way, as you imagine. I despise a coward, & if I know my own heart, should feel a greater grief, than any I have yet experienced to think you one. But what has this to do with my proposing a settled life to you ? You are not ordered to Flanders ; nay, as you tell me, you have scarce a prospect of being sent there. You seem to me still therefore at liberty to make your own choice, without incurring those hard censures which you seem to think you would deserve. It is my duty, (and I hope I should perform it) if you were obliged to go, to conceal my fears, & do every thing in my power to make our parting easy. But as there is no present occasion, I hope I may without a crime, use my endeavours to put it out of your power for the future.—Pardon the expression. I mean only to try if I can persuade you to preferr a settled life. Do not, my dear Soldier, inferr from this, that I have not read your charming advice with the greatest pleasure, & admiration. Indeed I have several times over ; & I pray God, we may both be enabled to put it into practise. But I hope my proposal is not contrary to it. If it is, I give up every thing I have said. I thank you for promising to take me with you to Ireland, tho' I am in great hopes you will not be ordered there.—How little did I think, when we last parted, that we should not meet for twelve months. That time hath already past, and how much more it may be, who can tell. Could I hope this might be the last year of our living separately, I should be happy, tho' I do not see you these six months. But I dare not so much as hope it.—

13.

Sep^t 12.

— I have just been employed on a work, which you and I have often been agreeably employed in together.—Instructing our dear little family. Is it possible there can be so much satisfaction in the hopes of bringing up eminent characters to shine in the world, as in that of bringing up good Christians? May this happy lot attend our dear infants! and above all, let us be careful our example adds weight to our instruction.—My proposal would perhaps enable us to provide better for them. Come then, my dear soldier, leave the pursuit of honour & glory; which are in my opinion, worse than empty sounds, when annexed to death and destruction. What shall I say to persuade you? alas! I fear, all I can say will be in vain. If it be possible contrive some way to let us live together. Where is the place I would not chearfully go to, to live with you & my little folks? My country, my friends, & relations are as dear to me, as I think they are to any body: but I could leave them all—nay were my temptations greater, and my affections stronger, I could break thro' all to live with you. If you resolve to continue a soldier, I must submit to live separate from you; and as far as I can without complaint. May you be directed to the best by the supreme governor of all things.

— Hereafter we shall meet
In happier climes, and on a safer shore.

Sure this transitory moment, this little span of life, was never intended to engross all our thoughts, desires and wishes. And yet we are more concerned about it, than about the whole eternity, that shall succeed. Why should we not then be more sollicitous to secure ourselves a happy meeting in a world to come! Here if we apply rightly we cannot fail. In other attempts we may. Farther than is consistent with this great end, I would not go one step, tho' to gain a kingdom.—Your little folks are all at rest. They often gratefully remember you, & often wish for your return. When they have a mind to please me, they begin to commend you. They call you their pretty papa; and bid me not cry for you will soon come home—Poor triflers! the thoughts of Italy never disturb their repose, tho' it may so nearly concern them. Write to me soon. Let me know all your designs. Tell me, how you live—if you are well—

& when you break up camp.—I could chide you for your neglect of me. It is seven weeks since I have had a line. No answer to my last. Not the least mention made of it, or me, in your last to your brother Gilpin. He gave me your gay letter to read, and I found so much mirth in it, that I have no reason to doubt of your health. Do not be so negligent in writing to your

M G.

14.

December 23.

— I do not know what return to make for all the kind, tender things you say to me. I beg pardon for writing the two last lines without thought. I did not know how to return the compliment you made me, any otherwise than by confessing, that if I, in any way, resemble Charity, or the pelican, it is owing to your conversation.— When shall I have an opportunity of shewing you my little family! They are very entertaining; and make up for the want of your company, more than any thing else in the world could do.

The letter from which the following extract was taken, is the only letter which bears the date of the year; and may in some measure fix the dates of others. It is directed to *Lieu^t Gilpin, of Gen^t Whetham's regiment at the camp near Windsor*. That regiment (the 12th) was at that time employed in making roads through Windsor forest.*

Aug: 3^d 1730.

— I have a large account of melancholy hours, & thoughtful, dull, dejected moments to lay before you; and not one letter in three weeks! Ah, my dear, could you not, in your hurry of business, have found one moment to tell me you were well?—But I forgive you. Your last kind letter made amends for all: and I believe writing to me would have been much more agreeable to you, than the business in which you are engaged.—This long expected review is at last over. O. that instead of being to overlook your men in Windsor forest, you had been permitted to follow your hay-makers at Scaleby! I shd then have had the pleasure of going along with

* See page 55.

you, and talking with you. But as it is, I must content myself with some of your little favourites; who tho' very entertaining to me, cannot make up the want of their dear papa. Molly is now very well; but has taken a great quantity of bark. Billy is now standing by me drawing; & begs I will enclose his picture to you; which I have promised, if he take pains enough with it. The rest are all well, but in bed. Dick is almost fit for a grenadier already. Many reasons made me extremely unwilling to part with him. But it was not in my power to do for him, as I had done for the rest. My illness was too violent. All here thought my parting with you was the occasion of it; as it began the day you left me. How true that might be, I know not. Indeed I was exceeding desirous of keeping you: and that night we were forced to part, held you with all my strength. Fain w^d I have had you stay; & thought it hard to part, when it was in our own power to be ten hours longer together. But people of more discretion, and less love, thought your being in the room hindered my rest. Alas! they little knew that when you left me, sleep and rest, & every thing pleasant departed from me. I then gave a loose to my tears; which I had before restrained as much as possible from you. Then that one wretched thought—When shall I see him again?—tormented me. It was then that I forgot what I owed to you; & those dear little infants which heaven has given us; & for a while suffered myself to be overcome with fruitless grief—fruitless indeed; for oh! it c^d not keep you!—At last, cooler thoughts began to enter; and I considered my condition far from being so bad, as it might be. I thought it a kind of tempting providence to grieve to that degree, when there were many in the world much more unhappy—nay not one in it, that I would change condition with.—These, my dear, are reflections, with which I often entertain myself, & you, when I am so happy as to have you with me. And there is great reason for them. Few have enjoyed a life more free from grevious ills than we thus far have done. How seldom has any evil accident befallen us! How many have we escaped! And what have we done to deserve this bounteous goodness! What returns do we make for all the mercies we daily receive from that great Being, who has created us, & preserves us! Do we keep his laws? Do we obey his just commands? Ah! no: the very best of us cannot answer these questions, as we ought. Let us then not

only talk of these things, but strive with our whole hearts to put in practise what we know to be our duty.—Do not think I apply this particularly to you; No: 'tis from the experience I have had of my own weakness—my own unsteady; half-formed resolutions. With shame I confess to you, the dear partner of my life, that I am guilty of breaking almost every good resolution I make. Help then this unsteady heart—this wavering in every thing but in being yours. Give me your advice. Tell me my faults. Make me know my duty. And may the eternal God, grant us his assistance!—Farewell! May you be as happy, as I wish you!

Your ever faithful

Matilda Gilpin

I wish I could have added extracts from the letters which gave occasion to these, or were answers to them. But I could find none. The survivor probably destroyed his own, & preserved those only, which had formerly given him so much delight. His letters which we may suppose, came also from the heart, would appear I doubt not the counterparts of these, that are preserved—the transcripts of a mind full of refined sentiments of love & duty.

I shall only remark further on these extracts, that altho' they abound with conjugal & maternal affection, piety is still the prevailing principle. Indeed love founded upon virtue, *is virtue*.—How sincerely these two people were impressed with sentiments of religion—how truly they felt them—and how consistent their affection for each other, & for their family was with their superior ties, their death (the great test of every earthly affection) is a sufficient testimony. Lives only like theirs, their posterity may be well assured, *will bring them peace at the last*; and ought to shew them early (what they will all find out in the end) that every human enjoyment is insignificant, in comparison of a well-spent life.



AN ACCOUNT OF
THE REVERD MR GILPIN
OF VICAR'S-HILL.

1801.



An account of the Rev^d M^r Gilpin, Vicar of Boldre in
New Forest, written by himself; to be inserted in
the family-record.

It hath always been thought a whimsical piece of affectation for a man to write his own life. And yet if he write it with truth and candour, nobody can write it so well; as he is certainly the best exponent both in the circumstances, & motives of his actions. The only thing to be feared is the influence of *self love*—& *self importance*. The former leads to *adorn himself*—the latter to introduce *trifles, as things of consequence*.

With regard to the influence of *self-love*, there is little, it is hoped, to be apprehended: for *facts* alone, without any *comments*, are admitted.

As to the introduction of *trifles for things of consequence*, there may certainly be some ground for apprehension: for where nothing has much importance, it may be difficult to throw out what has the least.

But M^r G. had another reason for being his own historian. His son at Cheam often talked of adding his father's life to the family-record: and M^r G. being well aware that filial affection w^d tempt him to colour too highly, thought by taking the pencil into his own hands, there was a better chance for a good likeness.

Under the impression of these remarks M^r G: wishes the following memoirs may be read.

William Gilpin was the eldest son of the two last amiable people mentioned, John Bernard Gilpin and Matilda, his wife. He was born at Scaleby-castle, in Cumberland, on the 4th of June 1724—went to school at Carlisle; & afterwards at S^t Bees;* from whence he was sent to Queen's college in Oxford. Here he spent six or seven years with little advantage; and tho' he had taken the degree of Bachelor of arts; and had nearly kept terms for a Master's, he was very uninformed both in arts & sciences. Nor was this owing solely to his own idleness. The college method of teaching logic, ethics, & divinity was no better than solemn trifling. In M^r G's day these scholastic modes seemed to be getting into disuse. The masters of education, no doubt, saw the futility of them: but had not yet the boldness to desert the path of their ancestors. In elder times, when this method of education was under strict discipline, it bred scholars admirable in their day. Many of our old divines shew themselves to have been men of great knowledge, acute reasoning, and good interpreters of scripture. But their manner is so often deformed with logical formalities, & pedantic quotations from fathers, & councils, that you seldom return to them with that pleasure, with which you return to a well-written modern composition.—To instance in one. *Taylor's liberty of prophecyng*, is a work more fraught with wit, wisdom, information, and christian charity, than almost any book you can take up. But his antique garb is unpleasant. Dress him in a modern habit, & he w^d not only give you the same information, but would be a most agreeable companion. Many however may like him better in the old dress of the times. I speak only my own sentiments.

Be it, however, as it may, the discipline, w^h produced

* The Rev. Allan Fisher, who succeeded the Rev. Richard Jackson previously mentioned, in the year 1738, was master at this time. Upon his death, in May, 1787, at the age of 86, the Cumberland Pacquet described him as "a man of profound learning, uncorrupted morals, and sincere piety."

such scholars, was now relaxed. The kernel was taken out, and the shell only left. On these husks the student fed, at the time we speak of. This mode of education is now probably altered. But when M^r. G. was at Oxford, all he gained, was from *reading books*, which he might have read any where, as well as at college; & without the loss of that time he had squandered on the appearance of doing something more.—All this even then gave him much offence; & his riper years confirmed the estimate he had made of the unprofitable mode of education, w^h then prevailed at College. Being tired therefore of the place, he resolved to leave it.

He had lost also an intimate friend M^r. George Potter— a loss which he could not repair among his other companions; and this made a college-life still more irksome to him. His friend Potter, and he, had those chambers in an old part of the college, which had formerly been occupied by the Black Prince. The situation used sometimes to inliven M^r. Potter; who would say, he could read an account of the battle of Poictiers, in his own chamber, with as much enthusiasm, as if he had been on the spot. This antique part of the college stood opposite to St. Peter's church. It was the last part of the old fabric, that remained; but was taken down, several years ago, to make room for the grand building, w^h now compleats the outward court.

When M^r. Potter left Oxford, he went into the army, tho he had been designed for the church. This was a hasty measure. But the rebellion of 1745 was then raging; and his lot threw him among military men. His great parts made him admired wherever he went. He was misled; and his friends wished to throw a shade over the latter part of his life. M^r. G. corresponded with him several years; & still values his letters as strongly marked with wit and genius.

Nearly about the same time, M^r. G. now dissatisfyed with a college-life, got leave of absence, & retired among his

friends in Cumberland. There he took deacon's orders ; and having gotten a little curacy,* he determined to leave university-honours, and expectations, behind him, and settle in a life of ease, and quiet.

He had not however spent a year in his retirement,† when it was interrupted. Tho he had now extended his leave of absence far beyond its limits ; and had every reason to suppose he had displeased the college, he received an obliging message from the provost‡ to inform him, that if he would yet return, and continue at College till he took his degree, he should still enjoy the benefit of the foundation, of which he was a member. His friends pressed him much to accept the provost's offer. But to his other objections he had one, th^t was capital. He knew his father, however willing, could ill afford any further expence ; and he determined therefore to press no more upon him.

In the mean time however a friend stood up (the late Dr Brown, author of the memorable *Estimate*) who obligingly removed that objection by offering to lend him money, till he took his degree ; which he might repay, when it was convenient.—This kind offer coinciding with the desire of his friends, induced him to return once more to a place, which he always so much disliked.

But the offer, and the performance of a service do not always coincide. His expences were certainly as moderate

* He was ordained, Oct. 5, 1746, by Sir George Fleming, Bishop of Carlisle, to the Curacy of Irthington ; of which living his aunt's husband, the Rev. James Farish, was Vicar.

† It would seem to have been considerably less than a year, for I have before me a Sermon (published in 1747, and preached at Buckingham on the 5th of July in that year,) with the following Prefatory Address :—“ TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF BUCKINGHAM, As an instance of his regard for them ; as a Monument of his having once had the pleasure of being amongst them and as a Token to keep him in their Memories, as they will ever remain in his, this discourse is inscribed by their very sincere well-wisher, and most affectionate friend, THE AUTHOR W^m GILPIN.”

‡ Dr. Joseph Smith, son of the Rev. William Smith, Rector of Lowther, where he was born, Oct. 10, 1670. He was a great benefactor of Queen's College, and a ready patron of all students of merit from the Counties of Westmerland and Cumberland.

as they well could be ; but his friend after answering two or three of his little bills, deserted him. On taking his degree therefore he left college with a debt of about 70£ upon him, which was at that time a great burden.* His creditors however (of whom he had only two, a woollen draper and a tailor, of any consequence) were not urgent with him, as he took care always to inform them, where he was to be found.

It was his first business to borrow money to repay Dr Brown, the little sum he had borrowed of him ; and for the payment of his other debt he drew up, and published the life of Bernard Gilpin, which effectually answered his end. This life had been written in latin by Carlton, bp of Chichester ; and M^r G. rather enlarged it from original letters, and other authentic documents, than merely translated it.—A Dignitary of the church, & friend of M^r G.'s, wrote a preface to his book : but as he spoke rather harshly of methodists,† at least not so candidly, as M^r G. : thought he should have done, he excused himself from publishing the preface, unless his friend would put his name to it, or at

* He took his M.A. degree, May 14th, 1748.

† Gilpin's sentiments with regard to this body are given in a letter which I find in "Warner's Literary Recollections," Vol. I, p. 351 :—" You and I think perfectly alike about Methodists. It appears to me that, by the merciful providence of God, the Gospel has two great modes of access to the human heart, both perhaps conducive to the same good end. The one is through the channel of the imagination ; the other through that of reason. The former is more adapted to the ignorant and unenlightened part of mankind, who cannot reason, nor see the force of evidence. The Methodists all seem inclined to this mode of address. They apply to the imagination, and endeavour to inspire enthusiastic fervours ; which may be very conducive, I doubt not, to excite piety and devotion. But if we grant that this mode of application may be of use to the ignorant and uninformed ; the sectary, on his part, should grant that it is not adapted to general use. To convince the learned infidel, you must not open upon him with the absolute necessity of faith, till you have convinced him of the foundation of that faith ; nor tell him affecting stories of the sufferings of Christ, till he be satisfied of the reality of these sufferings. Again, when worldly prejudices, and refined modes of immorality, have mixed themselves with Christian doctrines, some learning is necessary to disentangle all this maze of errors : and if the enthusiastic preacher call this worldly wisdom, I should be apt to call him uncandid. Let us all do the best we can."

least allow M^r G[:] to say, it was *written by a friend*. But he refusing, the preface was omitted.

When M^r G[:] left Oxford he had the offer of a curacy in London, w^t he accepted. His expectations were hardly raised higher. He had no friends, fr^m whom he could expect a more settled livelihood. Preferment was an idea that never entered his head.

Indeed he had very early scruples about asking clerical favours. If the matter were candidly considered, he thought no patron—especially no ecclesiastical patron, had a *right* to give a living merely on being asked for it. It is a gospel trust; & was never intended to be conferred through favour, but meant to be *given* only to such persons, as are thought to be the most deserving.—Then again they who think candidly, think it is as wrong to *ask*, as it is in others to *give*. It is desiring another to do, what you think wrong. Besides, he who *asks*, says in effect, I am qualified for what I ask. I ask only for my desert. He, who only accepts what is offered, says in effect, I will do my best.—But tho' in fact, this mode of reasoning is very just, it is too refined for common inspection. And even where it is acknowledged, it has the force rather of a sort of speculative, than of practical truth.

M^r G[:] however in the early part of his life was not so delicate in his ideas, and in two instances was a petitioner tho' in both disappointed.

He had been informed, that sir James Lowther, uncle to the present Lord Lonsdale,* had a small living in Cumberland, then vacant. M^r G's family had long been in the interest of the Lowthers, who had always been friendly to them. M^r G. however did not care to apply to Sir James himself on the occasion; as he did not suppose sir J. knew that even such a man existed. He went therefore to General Stanwix, an old friend of his father, and likewise in the

* Lord Lonsdale was second cousin once removed to Sir James Lowther of Whitehaven, here alluded to,

Lowther interest, and desired him to sollicit sir James in his favour. The General, who was the most courtly man alive, was extremely glad of an opportunity to serve a son of his old friend : and that no time might be lost, desired him to drink tea with his wife and daughter, and he would go that instant to sir James. Accordingly he took his hat and sword ; and went immediately : but came back with a disappointed countenance : the living was disposed of.—It happened soon afterwards by an accident, w^b the General could not foresee, nor suppose probable, that M^r. G. called upon sir J: Lowther. After finishing the little business he came upon, he took an opportunity of apologizing for the trouble he had given him thro General Stanwix. Sir James recollecting nothing about it, M^r. G: recapitulated the circumstances, that had passed between the general and him, on which sir James assured him the general had never mentioned the least syllable to him about any such matter.* M^r. G: then easily supposed, the general had stepped into a coffee house where he stayed till it might reasonably be supposed he could have returned from Ormond street, where sir James lived.—The general shewed himself, on many future occasions, especially in elections, a man of no principle ; and had long forfeited the confidence of all his friends.—He was afterwards, poor gentleman, lost together with his wife and daughter, in his passage from Ireland ; and left a curious litigation for the lawyers to determine, which of the three was drowned first.†

The other request in which M^r. G. was disappointed was made to a worthy bishop, D^r. Newton of Bristol ; who had expressed to one of M^r. G's friends, an inclination to serve

* "Shir, Shir, said Sir James (for he always spoke through his teeth) General Stanwix never mentioned the thing to me—I never heard of it before." Warner's Literary Recollections, Vol. I, p. 326.

† For a notice of General Stanwix and the interesting litigation consequent on the catastrophe referred to, see Ferguson's Cumberland and Westmorland M.P.'s, pp. 488 & 489.

him. On the strength of this M^r G: was persuaded to ask a favour of him ; which the bishop denied, but with a reason, which removed all suspicion of his insincerity. The operation of asking however was so unpleasant, that M^r G. never sollicited the bishop a second time.

These two disappointments, both of which happened in early life, confirmed M^r G. in his disapprobation of asking clerical favours ; and he never asked another for himself or his children during the whole course of his life.—They taught him also a lesson which he wishes to impress upon all his posterity, who read these memoirs, that instead of depending on these deceitful applications, to rely solely, under God, on their own endeavours ; and such friends as in the hands of providence may be instrum^t to serve them.

Among the acquaintance, w^h M^r G. formed in London, was a family of the name of Sanxay, in which he always met with great friendship.* The eldest brother had a school at Cheam near Epsom in Surrey, which had been of long standing. Cheam is a village on the edge of Banstead-downs, and enjoys so pure an air, that the inhabitants say, it was never afflicted with an epidemical disorder. When the plague raged in London, in the time of Charles II, a master brought his scholars to Cheam to avoid the infection, and taught them in the belfry. After the plague ceased it was found so commodious a situation for a school, that the master took a house and continued there. Since that time the school has never been removed. At the beginning of the last century one of the masters built the present house, which is large and fit for the purpose. A considerable school was carried on there by M^r James Sanxay ; assisted in the management of it by one of his sisters. But on his marrying a wife with a good fortune, who was very averse to the employment, it went by degrees to decay.

* I suspect there was a connection between the Gilpins and the Sanxays through the Briscos.

In this state of it, M^r: Sanxay applied to M^r: G: to take it off his hands; and behaved to him, in a manner, so liberal, that he got the better of all his objections. One of the cheif was the want of money to furnish proper necessaries, & go on with the daily expences of the school. In this he had not himself the ability to assist him; but his brother M^r: Robert Sanxay, one of the most friendly, and benevolent men alive, desired M^r: G. to draw upon him for any sums he wanted; which he offered in so frank a manner, that M^r: G. accepted his generosity. This friendship was not only offered, but continued, during two or three years—indeed as long as M^r: G. wanted it, without the least diminution of confidence, or kindness. M^r: G. was sometimes several hundred pounds in his debt—but neither bond, nor interest was suffered.

M^r: R: S.'s kind offer determined M^r: G. to take the school: but one thing was yet necessary, and that was a prudent wife to manage the household part of it.

This objection however was gotten over by his gaining the consent of a relation of his own, every way qualified for the undertaking; to whom almost from infancy he had been attached. She was his first cousin. Her Xstened name was Margaret, and his surname was hers before marriage.

Her father dying young, she was left unprovided; and was carried to Scaleby-castle by an uncle, who having no children of his own, always declared he would consider her as a child. He was kind to her in every thing, but in giving her a good education. In this she was left to herself. But she was in a family, in which she had the example of much good; & no ill. Three of her aunts have already been mentioned in these records—all of them not only respectable, but exemplary women. With one or other of these she spent much of her time; tho she was properly under the care of none. She had access to books, of which she was always fond; and having the advantage of an excellent memory, she was in fact better educated, than if she had been sent

to a boarding-school. She was not taught to draw, or to dance, or to play on a musical instrument; but the examples before her, taught her lessons of industry, innocence and piety. The books she read were not novels (those swarming indications of a corrupt age) but always books of history, or religion. With the best English poets too she was conversant. Thus instructed, by the time she came of age, she was considered as a young woman of an improved understanding; and prudent beyond her years.

In the mean time, her uncle's affairs, being ill-managed, went wrong. She knew his estate was encumbered, tho' not to the extent it afterwards appeared. She drew her own conclusions however; and had the discernment to see his affairs were approaching to ruin, some time before the crisis came on. With a greatness of mind therefore wth few young women, brought up with her hopes, and living in ease & comfort, could have exerted, she determined to encroach no longer on her uncle's kindness; nor to be the least incumbrance to a falling house. Unadvised by her friends, she took *her own* resolution to provide for herself in the only way in her power by going into the world.*

Her character soon recommending her, she undertook the care of the only daughter of a noble family. She had

* Margaret Gilpin was the daughter of the William Gilpin of Whitehaven and his wife Margaret, second daughter of George Langstaff, mentioned in page 56; so they were first cousins by both father and mother. Our author says in another account, "When my uncle was in possession of Scaleby Castle, before his affairs went wrong, he took a little neice, a fatherless child, to bring up. He had no children of his own; and his wife and he considered her as such: nor were my father and mother fonder of any of their own children than they were of her. She used often to be at Carlisle, to play with her cousins; and her cousins were as often at Scaleby, to play with her. She was a pretty little girl; and every body said she was a very good little girl. In short, one of her cousins, though only a school boy, took a particular fancy to her. He soon after made his father and mother his confidants; and they were far from discouraging him. They probably thought (as I do now) that early attachments, though not favourable to ambition and worldly schemes, are far from being unfavourable to virtue; and my father, good man (which alone would endear his memory to me,) painted her picture, and sent it to me to Oxford; though the poor girl herself was then ignorant of the occasion. In process of time, however, the plot began to open. The two cousins became acquainted with each

nothing to do with her education, which was put, as usual, into the hands of masters.

This was, but, on the whole, a disagreeable connection. The young lady afterwards marryed a nobleman of the first rank. But having been vitiated by play, and other depravities, she was led from these schools of dissipation to the summit of female infamy ; and with an effrontery even to common decency, she got rid of the tye of marriage by publicly proclaiming herself an avowed adulteress.—In the days of her innocence Mr. G. often received letters from her ; as if she wished to keep up a friendly intercourse. But when she became one of the daughters of shame, of course she threw off all her virtuous connections. Mr. G. never saw her afterwards ; and could not bear to hear her name mentioned. It shall here be omitted.†

Mr. G's generous spirit in voluntarily giving up a life of ease and comfort at Scaleby-castle, & engaging in a life of dependance, rather than hang an encumbrance on the necessities of a kind relation ; was only a specimen of her whole future life. A more disinterested person never lived.

other's sentiments : and though (as neither of them had anything to depend on but themselves) it was several years before the drama was concluded by a marriage ; yet at length this step was thought prudent by all their friends ; and they have now (1791) lived together about thirty years, without having been almost as many days separated. No marriage could be more happy. All their schemes succeeded : and they are, now in their old age, in affluent circumstances, and have six fine grandchildren, to bear their name after them. They have often said to each other, they never knew what could be called an affliction ; and only have to hope, that God will be pleased to work with them by felicity, as he often does with others by calamity. This intermarriage, and some others of the same kind amongst us, made a humorous friend of mine once tell me, 'I know not which it is ; but either your family think no other family fit to marry into ; or, no other family will marry with them.' "—Warner's Literary Recollections, Vol. I, pp. 328–330.

Richard Gilpin, in his will before mentioned, bequeaths "unto my niece Margaret Gilpin of Scaleby the sum of three hundred pounds to be paid out of my personal estate but if that fall short out of Highfeild Moor and my other lands."

† No one at all familiar with the Memoirs and Letters of the last century will, I think, have much difficulty in identifying the lady ; but as Mr. Gilpin has been pleased to throw a certain veil over her name, it would be unbecoming to attempt its withdrawal.

When she was concerned in any business with another person, if she were arbitress, the other had always the better chance. She was as rigid in her frugality in everything relating to herself, as she was generous & bountiful in every thing relating to others. Self-indulgence was always over matched by self-denial. She was fond of *giving*, but backward in *receiving*—perhaps too backward. Our Saviour says, *It is more blessed to give than to receive.* She read the text as if it said, *It is blessed to give, but the reverse to receive.* Her husband used to tell her she was influenced by pride; as if she set herself up as an independent being from whom every thing might flow; but to whom nothing should return.—After all, this temper was only founded in the peculiar pleasure she had in *giving*; which made her consider *receiving* as robbing her of half her pleasure.

Giving relief to the poor, it may be supposed from the generosity of her temper to be in a peculiar manner pleasing to her. It always appeared so. In times of scarcity when her poor neighbours used to come round her at set times for their doles, she used to say, she longed for the day, in which she made so many of them comfortable. Compassion itself is no virtue: but there is virtue surely in *taking a pleasure* in those troublesome offices of charity, to which compassion leads. But her charity had the best foundation. It was founded on religious duty.

Her sincerity was equal to her generosity. She never made a profession, w^h did not come from her heart. Her countenance never wore a mask; & they who were acquainted with her features, could easily discern in what esteem, or disesteem she held those with whom she conversed.

Her affection for her friends, especially when excited by any circumstance of tenderness, was unbounded. In attending a sick friend neither sleep, food, nor any attention to herself was ever in her thoughts.—One of the severest trials she ever met with, was the death of a daughter. She was a child of 6 or 7 years of age; & her mother having nursed

her tenderly during an illness of many months, it may be supposed in so long an attendance many exquisite feelings had wound round her heart; w^h, on the death of the child, settled into so deep an affliction, that M^r G : feared it might draw on some disorder.—Under this apprehension, he advised her to draw out upon paper all the circumstances of the child's illness: in hope th^t having now, as it were, recorded them, she w^d naturally think it less necessary to retain the memory of them. She follow^d the advice, & transcribed fr^m her heart one of the most affect^s narratives to those who can enter into all the tenderness of a mother's feelings.

Among her other virtues, industry was conspicuous. It might be said, she was never a child. The little pleasures of her youth took a womanly turn; and were marked from the first with industry. She soon became useful in many respects. Her needle was a most assiduous one. Can any of her grandchildren say, they could, while yet under age, completely make a full sized Holland shirt in one day? She could.

After she went to Cheam tho' her family affairs afforded sufficient employment for her time she found leisure both for reading & working. She was fond of canvas-work, with coloured worsteds; and made several small carpets & coverings for chairs in good taste; many of which, no doubt, will be preserved by her posterity, as the work of a most respectable ancestor.

As an amusement without doors, she was fond of a garden, and particularly of flowers. She did not study them as a botanist; but admired them as a lover of nature—their various kinds—their different forms, colours, & modes of cultivation. She amused herself with rearing them in her garden; and sorting them in her parlour. But nothing gave her more pleasure than to accomodate her neighbours with any flower which she had raised, and they wished for. A true florist is very tenacious of his treasures. Half the

pleasure consists in possessing what nobody else possesses. M^r G: was of opinion that *communicating* the pleasure doubled it.

With this very valuable woman M^r G. had been acquainted from a child; and they had spent much of their early youth together. He was just one year older. But tho' M^r G: always felt more affection for her than merely as a relation, he was happy to take the gage of her good qualities rather from the opinion of others. The former may be a foundation for *love*; but it is the latter, which is the best foundation of *esteem*. If you love what nobody esteems, you possess a monopoly, which is of little value. It was of course therefore a great pleasure to M^r G. to find the object of his affection esteemed from her earliest youth, by all good people, wherever she lived. Her good sense, judgement, generosity, disinterestedness, and sincerity were more and more discovered the more she was known.

These leading parts of her character soon had their influence at Cheam; and produced in all the parents of the young folks there, an entire confidence. The health and welfare of the boys were her only care. Her provision for them was always the best, and most plentiful. She was above those low arts, which are always endeavouring to save a little out of every thing. In sickness, her anxiety was often too much for herself; but always beneficial to them. She had great skill in the disorders of boys; and parents often thought their children better taken care of by her, than if brought home to themselves.

I mention M^r G: here as I may not have occasion to mention her again; not intending to enter into the domestic management of the school. I could wish however that her posterity might be acquainted with the leading particulars of her life; and her many virtues. From these they may conceive, how much the scheme, in which M^r G. had engaged, depended on her economy & prudence.—Indeed

without the active part she took in it, the whole would have fallen to the ground.

M^r. G. having now gotten money to go on with his school; and a prudent wife to assist him in the management of it, entered upon his charge in the year 1752. Immediately on his taking the school it sank. It was low before; but it now fell to 15 boys. The omen was bad: but it was yet too soon to despond. Care and perseverance raised it gradually; but only gradually, for some years. Afterwards, when it began to encrease, it encreased rapidly. From 40 it rose soon to 50—to 60—to 70—to 80. And there were generally several on the list waiting for vacancies.

In the management of his school M^r. G. tried a new scheme, which some might think whimsical; but he himself thought it a very useful one. Instead of presiding over it in a magisterial manner, as is generally practised in schools, he formed a code of laws with punishments annexed to each transgression. These laws were publicly read at stated times, before the whole school, so that no one could plead ignorance. He observed them strictly himself; and if at any time it happened (as sometimes, tho' rarely, it did happen) that punishment was carried rather farther than the law prescribed, some little patriot would stand up, and boldly mention it. M^r. G. in these cases generally inquired, who else had made the observation? and if a sufficient number of good witnesses appeared, he always submitted; and made ample compensation to the party aggrieved.—This gave respect to the law; and credit to the master's candour.—In all doubtful cases where the law was not obvious, or the offence not sufficiently proved, a jury of twelve boys was impannelled, bound only by their honour; and M^r. G: used often to say, he never once knew an improper verdict given.

This mode of government might operate, (as he believed it did) in impressing young minds with an early love of order, law and liberty. But to himself the advantage was

indisputable. It intirely took from him the odium of punishment ; and transferred severity to the law.

Corporal punishment, except for vice, or obstinate idleness, was seldom in use ; and then cheifly among little boys. The principal punishments were fine, and imprisonment. The imprisonment was always accompanied with exercise ; and as there were generally, every holiday afternoon, two or three delinquents, an usher always attended in the dining hall, which was the place of imprisonment.

The fine was levyed from the weekly allowance ; and from so many boys the sum often in hand was 50, 60, or 70 pounds. Projects for disposing of this money for the public good, were always listened to with attention ; & if approved, were executed. Seats were erected in the play yard—an extensive fives-ground was paved—batts and balls were furnished for cricket : Prizes were distributed among the most deserving. Books also were bought ; w^h by degrees encreased into a tolerable library. A librarian was chosen, who kept the key of the library, & gave out, and received back, the books which were lent to the boys.—But a part of this money about 4 or 5 pds. was always given, twice a-year, in bread to the poor. The boys were seated in the dining room ; and the loaves were piled up, on a long table in the middle of the room. One of the seniors then standing up with his list, called in each of the poor people in rotation, to receive the number of loaves allotted to him. They were given to understand, at the same time, this was the young gentlemen's charity, whom they were to thank.—This scene always appeared to give the boys great pleasure ; and the recollection of it, might at some future period have its effect.—An account of the fines, and of all this expenditure was kept by a Secretary, who was the cheif officer in the state ; whose books were always open to inspection.

Among the amusements of the boys cricket was encouraged as a manly exercise. The place where they usually played was a Green in the neighborhood—where all the

cricket-players in the village used to resort. The boys had orders to leave the ground, if they should find it already occupied, by the poorest children of the place. But if they were the first occupiers, to give way to nobody. It happened, as they were one day playing, some of the farmers came to the ground. But the boys would not give up the possession of it. Words ensuing, one of the farmers threw a ball, which hurt a boy's leg. M^r: G: immediately sent for the farmer, and informed him, that if he w^d pay a guinea to the poor, & *publicly* beg the boy's pardon, the affair should be made up. The farmer paid his guinea; but would not submit to beg pardon. The guinea was returned; and he was informed, he must expect to hear of the affair in another shape. He went grumbling off: but on second thoughts, he returned; and being introduced formally into the school, he begged pardon *before all the boys*, of the young gentleman, whom he had injured.—By little incidents of this kind M^r: G: endeavoured to fix strongly in the minds of the boys ideas of tyranny and oppression—of justice, and injustice. Facts would be remembered, when precepts might be forgotten.

With the same strictness he attended to all complaints brought *against* the boys: and took care that all injustice and improper behaviour, tho to the meanest person in the parish, should be amply repaired.

Walking out, on a holliday afternoon, was another amusement, in w^b M^r: G: indulged his boys: at the same time endeavouring to make it an instrument of exciting truth, honour & integrity.—When the boys came together, after every vacation, they were required to *promise* never to go out of bounds without leave. The promise was entirely optionable. They who did not promise, only ran the common risk of being caught: they who did, had the liberty of walking out into the country on leave. In general, the offer was esteemed a public advantage; and rarely above half a dozen would stand out. These little wretched seceders

were generally in evil plight: for as there were so few of them, the absence-bell soon discovered them; and the most cunning among them seldom escaped longer than a week. When taken however they only suffered the common punishment for going out of bounds, as there was no breach of promise in the case. They soon however began to find their mistake, and saw that orderly liberty was more advantageous than dangerous licence. Sooner or later they always therefore begged to be admitted to promise; which, except to some notorious offenders, or to shew, now and then, by an example of severity, the lenity of the law, was commonly allowed.

Going out of bounds *under promise* was a very serious affair: and indeed, in general, the boys thought it so. It was a trespass rarely committed. Every holliday, after dinner, Mr G: had generally two or three notes put into his hands with requests to take a walk to such or such a place, signed by two or three boys, who were as many as were allowed to walk out together. The conditions were not to go into any house; and to return at such an hour. Mr G: could direct his ride, which he often took in an afternoon, to one part as well as another, and very seldom saw any occasion to find fault with the indulgence he had allowed.—This engagement between the boys and the master, not only contributed, as was observed, to impress on the former a high sense of integrity; but was of great advantage to the latter, who always knew where he had the boys either at home, or abroad. It was of use also in the country. Boys cannot always be withheld from mischeif: but if a complaint was made from any quarter, he easily know on what boys to fix it.—Such little boys, as had promised, who could not be trusted to walk out alone, had the same liberty given them under the care of an usher.

Among the amusements of the boys, the cultivation of gardens was encouraged. The borders under the play-yard walls were divided into twenty or thirty little plots; many

of which were well improved, and produced melons, cucumbers, onions and early salads. Pleasant arbours also were made in them; which in a summer-noon were among the luxuries of the play-yard. These gardens were conveyed sometimes by purchase—but oftener by *will*, when a boy left the school. It was common also for the bigger boys to employ little boys to assist them in cultivating their ground; and on the demise of the senior, the land was generally bequeathed to the assistant. Some of the more popular boys w^d sometimes possess very large estates: portions of which they would either sell or let out as their affairs required. All however were obliged to cultivate their gardens. It was a law of the state, that whatever was neglected, escheated to the Lord; who gave it to those who would make a better use of it.

As gingerbread, cakes, apples and other school commodities, were not always to be had, some of the boys kept little shops, in which they retailed these necessaries of a school boy's life. The traffic was at least winked at, if it led into no imposition. In *lettered gingerbread*, the legal profit was one letter in a half penny. The profit on the other goods was under similar regulations. But no one was allowed to carry on business, who had shewn any inclination to impose on his customers. A very notorious case once happened. The secretary, who is the great officer of the state, among other parts of his business pays the boys their weekly allowances. This officer once kept a shop. It was never supposed he had been guilty of any open fraud: but it appeared against him, that when he paid the little boys their money at one end of the table, he displayed his goods at the other. This was taking so unfair an advantage by leading them into temptations, which they could not possibly resist, that he was not only forbidden to open his shop again, but was turned out of his high office with disgrace.

Thus it was endeavoured on this small scale to give landholders, tradesmen & public officers some little idea of

uprightness and utility in their several stations: in short to give them a miniature of the world they were afterwards to enter; and of that attention to honesty & good morals which ought to regulate their conduct.

They who admire the economy & arbitrary method of public schools, will probably laugh at these trifling attentions to morals, and good order: but they would do well to consider, whether many of the injurious actions passed lightly over under the name of school-boys' tricks, may not be a foundation for knavery? and whether the violence & oppression practised among school-boys to each other, may not give the mind a hardened cast in early youth? Let them recollect also how easily both good and bad habits are formed in young minds; and from what trifling beginnings they often take their origin. Let them then candidly own, whether it may not be worth while to try some new method; and to endeavour, if possible, to bring early habit, in the common instances of life, to fight in the cause of virtue and good manners.

With the parents in general however this mode of governing his school was satisfactory. But nobody expressed approbation in stronger terms than the late M^r Glover. M^r Glover was much esteemed at this time in public life. He had gained great reputation in parliament on many occasions. He was considered also as a very polite scholar: and his Leonidas has generally been allowed to rank as the second English epic. M^r Glover's approbation therefore was very flattering. Whenever he saw M^r G. he used to enquire with much cheerful curiosity, after any new anecdote of his government; and would sometimes get a number of school stories on paper; & shew them among his friends with great pleasure. But indeed M^r Glover was always partial to M^r G. He was among his first friends, & continued his friendship through life. Many years afterwards he spent a week with M^r G. in his retirement from Cheam; when M^r G: recurring to old times, and expressing the sense he

always had of M^r Glover's friendship, Drop that matter, he w^d reply, I always loved you.*

M^r G: endeavoured also to give his pupils just notions of religion, as well as of morals. With this view he took the church catechism for his foundation, and read plain and easy lectures on sunday-evenings, upon scripture doctrines, & duties, asking questions of the boys to keep their attention awake. As he had taken some pains with these lectures, he abridged and corrected them on his leaving Cheam, and afterwards published them for the use of young students. M^r G. had the pleasure to see this little work pass thro five editions. It procured him the friendship also of a very respectable prelate, D^r Barrington, Bishop of Durham--then bishop of Salisbury, who on reading his book, gave M^r G. a stall in his cathedral.†

As another mode of religious exercise, an hour was spent every morning in reading the scriptures. When the boys came first out of their chambers, they were combed, & washed. They were seated quietly in a circle in the dining hall, and each was taken out in turn. During this time, which was generally about an hour, the new Testament was read audibly by the bigger boys, till prayers. It was read also after prayers in the evening. By the continued use of this practise, the Testament was read over, several times in the year.—The end of this exercise was to imprint it as

* No more striking instance of the uncertainty of fame can be adduced, than that it should seem necessary at the present day to append a note to indicate in how great estimation Richard Glover was held by his contemporaries. He was regarded as a poet of great genius, a dramatist of great power, a scholar of the first rank, a patriot, an orator, and a most able financier. He was one of the select few to whom the authorship of Junius was ascribed. His poem "To the Memory of Sir Isaac Newton" was written in his sixteenth year. His great epic of "Leonidas," above mentioned, published in 1737, went through four editions in that and the following year, an extraordinary instance of success considering the length of the poem. He was educated at Cheam School by Mr. Gilpin's predecessor. He died, Nov. 25th, 1785, aged 74.

† He was collated to the Prebend of Beaminster Secunda in the Cathedral of Salisbury, June 20th, 1783. The income of the stall was under £20 per annum, and the necessary expenditure nearly covered the receipts.—Memoir of Wm. Gilpin. Lymington, 1851.

strongly as possible in the memory of the young folks, that they might never forget it afterwards. Tho' thus casually, as it were, heard, M^r: G: hoped it would lay up such a store of scriptural knowledge in their memory, as would afterwards be of use in the future circumstances of their lives ; raising up matter, as occasion required, for reproof, thanksgiving, advice, or consolation.

Other religious exercises were in use : particularly, on sunday mornings, M^r: G: used to dictate to the bigger boys, who sat writing round the table before him, explanations of the parables, & other parts of scripture ; transposing them into modern language. This was an exercise, which he thought very useful ; insomuch that, when he left Cheam, he printed an Exposition of the New Testament on this plan. By attending to the leading sense of scripture, and putting it into modern language, he took a new, and he thought a useful mode of explaining it.

Thro' all these means M^r: G: hoped he had formed a good foundation of moral, & religious knowledge among his young folks. But at one period, the morality of his school was almost entirely overturned. He had inadvertently taken two or three boys, who had probably been sent from other schools for their wickedness, and obstinacy. He had his suspicions, but he knew not they were so bad, and hoped to reclaim them. But this was an idea wholly vain. It is surprizing how soon the example of two or three leading boys begins to operate in a school. These corrupters, instead of being at all influenced by the orderly manners they found prevailing, soon enlisted a large party under their standard, over whom they exercised a power completely despotic. One instance of their influence may suffice. Clandestinely in the village, they kept a few hounds ; and to feed them had a number of little boys in their pay ; who sent their plates over and over at dinner for meat, which they dexterously contrived to pocket, & then sent again. The thing passed over at first. The boys had wonderfully good appetites :

but much good might it do them ! double joints were provided. At length however this trick & many others, were discovered. The boys were unreclaimable ; and M^r G[:] got rid, as soon as he could, of such nuisances. But he would never after take boys above such an age—nor almost from any other school—never from a public one ; tho' several were offered on pretence that a backwardness in their improvements—or a softness in their manners—or a delicacy in their constitution rendered them less fit to undergo the roughness of a public education. Some of these M^r G[:] w^d have wished to have taken : but a general rule would soon have been lost in exceptions.

Such was the care which M^r G[:] took in forming the manners of his pupils ; which he always thought the great point of education. Where one boy miscarries for want of classical knowledge, hundreds are ruined for want of religious principles. M^r G[:] therefore always thought the attainment of languages, which is the grand point in all great schools, was carried too far. Perhaps he might have his own peculiar opinions on this subject ; but he c^d see little use in writing verses in a dead language—or indeed in learning it with *critical exactness*. If an English scholar could read a dead language with fluency ; and take up the general sense of an author, he thought it enough. To understand the *full force* of every word and expression would require much study—depended much on conjecture ; and, if attained, added little to a man's knowledge, or indeed to his taking up the general sense of an author ; tho' it might add a brilliant touch to some particular expressions. When a painter pays great attention to *parts*, he often neglects the *whole*. His genius goes no farther than a tree, or a cloud. It may be so in reading. When a man stops continually to get the exact critical sense of an expression, the ardour, with which he ought to pursue his author, goes off. With minute taste he rests on the structure of a particle, when he should examine the beauty of a poem.

M^r. G: thought it of much more use to his pupils to study their *own language* with accuracy than a dead one ; and in pressing this upon them he was assiduous enough ; and made themes and letter-writing their common exercise.

The mode too of learning languages in great schools he was not fond of. Instead of filling the memory of boys with *as in praesenti—quæ genus*—and other formulares ; he thought translating & re-translating elegant authors was a better mode of making polite scholars. It must be owned however, he was no critical classic himself ; and perhaps disregarded the accuracies of dead languages. too much. What he says therefore on this subject should be taken with allowance. Something may be laid to his own prejudices.

But whether his method was right or wrong he was very open and explicit with parents on the subject. He freely told them that if *critical exactness* in Greek or Latin was their object, his school would not answer their intention. He hoped his pupils would attain such a foundation in the learned languages, as would enable them to read the classics with ease and pleasure, if they turned their studies afterwards into that track. Farther than that he went not. And even that was farther than was necessary, if they afterwards threw these studies behind them.

As he was thus explicit with parents in matters of learning, he took the same freedom with them in other points, and endeavoured always to preserve his own consequence, which he thought contributed to raise his authority among his young folks ; and never would submit to any impropriety of behaviour ; tho, to say the truth, he very rarely met with it. In a few instances he did.

He had two of sir Thomas Frankland's sons ; and at the end of the first half year he sent in their account, as usual. Sir Thomas immediately returned it with a draft for the money : but over some of the articles he had put, in small figures, less sums than were charged : as if to say “ I'll pay you your money : and not dispute the matter with

you: but at the same time I'll shew you, that I know you have overcharged me." M^r G. was nettled at this, and immediately returned both the draft and the bill; and told Sir Thomas, that till he had explained what he meant by those alterations in the account; and till he was perfectly satisfied, he would by no means receive payment. At the same time he sent his vouchers for the objected articles; which altogether made a large bundle of papers; as the accounts of the boys were generally sent in together by each tradesman, under separate articles; but in one large bill: the tailor's bill alone consisted of several sheets of paper tacked together. Sir Thomas made an awkward apology; and the affair ended.*

There appeared at one period of the school, a bare, insulated spot, about the bigness of a shilling, on the heads of some of the boys. There were various opinions about it. Some thought it had a tendency to what is called a scalled head.—But all conceived it was infectious, and ought to be attended to with great care. Every caution therefore was used; & such boys as had it, were sent home. None found fault. Among the infected boys, were two sons of sir William Blackstone. In a little time sir William returned them; conceiving there was nothing which could give just alarm. But however, he said as they had taken the disorder at school, it was right they should be cured there. M^r G: was hurt at such reasoning, especially from so eminent a lawyer; and told sir William; if the matter had concerned only himself, the reasoning was just: but as it concerned so many boys, who were entrusted to his care, he could not acquiesce. The sign of the cure, he told sir William, was the growth of the hair: and as that sign had not yet appeared, if he would not keep them at home, till it did appear, he desired the boys might be removed from

* The eldest of these boys was born in 1750, and became the sixth Baronet. He married Dorothy, sister of Leonard Smeit before mentioned as one of the chief friends of Capt. John Bernard Gilpin, the father of William.

school. Candour did not seem to be among sir William's virtues ; and they parted.

There were probably, in so long a time, some other instances in which M^r G^{:r} might think himself unhandsomely treated ; but they were so few, that they could not easily be recollectcd. On the whole, he was treated with great kindness by all the parents, with many of whom he afterwards continued a long acquaintance—with some a friendship. Many of his pupils also after he had left Cheam, shewed him great attention. He could recollect between 60 or 70 of them, who at different times found him out, and visited him in his retreat : and several of them wrote him kind letters of remembrance from different parts of the world, where they were settled.

He had the pleasure also of seeing many of his pupils make very respectable figures in the church—in the law—in the army, and navy,—and as country-gentlemen.

He lived also to see some of them in very eminent stations. M^r Addington, during three parliaments, was speaker of the house of commons : and on the resignation of M^r Pitt in the year 1801, was at the king's express desire, made chancellor of the exchequer, and first lord of the treasury. Sir John Mitford succeeded him as speaker, after he had born, with great credit, the offices of Solicitor and attorney general. He was afterwards created Lord Redesdale ; and made Lord Chancellor of Ireland—an office, w^h, having made himself very popular among the Irish, he was thought fitter for than any other person.—M^r Cha^s Yorke at the same time was made secretary at war. M^r Hily Addington and M^r Nicholas Vansittart, the latter of whom M^r G. left at Cheam, were made secretaries to the treasury. M^r William Mitford, Lord Redesdale's elder brother, l^t Col^l of the south Hampshire Militia, might most probably, if he had chosen it, have obtained a post in the new administration : but he entered no farther into public affairs, than as a member of parliament. He retired to his estate, where he made himself

greatly esteemed as a country-gentleman ; and employed his leisure in writing a Grecian history—a work which gained him great credit among the learned. All these gentlemen, except M^r. Addington, his brother, and M^r. Yorke, were never at any school but Cheam. The others were sent to finish their classical education at public schools. M^r. Addington was sent to Winchester. He was always a remarkably well disposed young man, while he continued at Cheam ; and was so shocked at the wickedness he found at Winchester, that after some struggles with himself, he ran away from school. Some arbitrary parents would have sent their son back on such an occasion : but D^r. Addington, who was a very virtuous man, inquired fully into the case, and having every reason to believe his son had not taken offense without cause, he wrote to D^r. Warton, then master of Winchester-school, informed him of the cause of his son's leaving it ; and at the same time told him, that if those vicious boys were not removed, he could not think of returning him. The two Doctors were both positive ; and the young gentleman was afterwards placed under a private tutor.*—With all these eminent men, M^r. Gilpin continued after their advancement in life, on the same terms of friendship as before.

During the summer vacation, every year, at least after his circumstances became easy, M^r. G. used to take a journey into some part of England. His great amusement from his childhood was drawing ; a love for which he inherited from his father, and grandfather. And his pleasure on these journeys was to make remarks on the face of the country in a picturesque light ; & to take sketches of such scenes as most pleased him. A number of these remarks, and sketches he brought home from each journey in well filled memorandum books.

* Mr. Addington was created Viscount Sidmouth, Jany. 12, 1805. In recording his death, Feby. 15th, 1844, at the age of 87, the Annual Register asserts that he was educated at Winchester School, which, it is sufficiently obvious from the foregoing account, is incorrect.

He had now kept the school at Cheam near 30 years; and having a son of age to take it off his hands, he thought of retiring. As he had long had a full school of near 80 boys, he might have made a large fortune: but having several calls from needy relations, he was content with a moderate one. He had now only two sons, having lost two daughters in their infancy.

When his intention of retiring from Cheam was known, his friend Col^l Mitford gave him the living of Boldre in New-forest: and another friend, D^r Plumtree, offered him a second living in Kent; which he might have held with Boldre. But he was always averse to pluralities.

Sometime afterwards Lord Harcourt offered him the living of Nuneham: but he was then fixed at Boldre; and had gotten through the difficulties he found on his taking possession there. If it had been offered earlier, it is probable he would have accepted it. L^d Harcourt offered it to his son also, but as it was inconsistent with his school, M^r G. refused it.

At Boldre indeed he found the vicarage-house and every thing belonging to it, in great disorder. His predecessor dyed a bankrupt. Nothing therefore could be recovered for delapidations. It cost M^r G. several hundred pounds before he could put his house in repair; and make it convenient. The situation was well disposed to receive the beauties of a little artificial improvement: and when the trees began to grow, Vicars-hill, wh^{ch} was its name, was admired as a very pleasant retreat.

But what was still worse, than the disorder of the house, was the disorder of the parish. A forest is by no means a school for virtue, or good manners. It affords so many temptations to steal deer, and pilfer wood, that its inhabitants are not in much repute for honesty. M^r G. saw all this with regret; and found himself much more unequal to the task of improving the morals of his parishioners, than the scenery about his house. With all he did, and all he

could do, he saw little amendment; and yet some amendment there certainly was. At the end of twenty years he thought he saw the parish in less disorder, than when he first came into it.

At that time he found, among other enormities, three farmers living in a state of adultery. With them he began; and two, who were obstinate, he put to great expence in the Bp's court; and obliged them to do penance in the church.*

When he first came to Boldre he was between 50 & 60 years of age. But tho' his parish was very extensive, he was able to walk abt it with great ease; visiting sometimes one part and sometimes another. He would often take a little refreshment in his pocket, and a horn-cup, which he could at any time fill from the clear springs he every where met with. In these expeditions he would sometimes spend a whole day; and come home to a late repast; never suffering his family

* A more detailed account of one of these cases, wherein this form of ecclesiastical punishment, which may now be regarded as obsolete, was inflicted, may be permitted. "One of the principal and most opulent farmers of Boldre, a married man, with a large family, and amiable wife, had long given much offence to his more serious neighbours, by his disorderly life. His conduct at length reached the ears of Mr. Gilpin, who, with almost fatherly tenderness, endeavoured mildly, but earnestly, to bring him to a sense both of his folly and his danger. The man, however, was incorrigible, and instead of reforming, became more abandoned; publicly keeping a mistress in the neighbourhood of his own house. Threats of the spiritual court were resorted to, but without avail; and Mr. Gilpin found it necessary either to suffer such a scandal in his parish, to remain unnoticed, and the influence of his evil example to diffuse itself without a check, or to have recourse to a remedy, which however efficacious, he was well aware, would be far from popular. He did not hesitate a moment between the performance of his duty, and the probability of incurring obloquy by fulfilling it. A process was instituted against the farmer in the ecclesiastical Court, and as he continued refractory, excommunication was on the point of being awarded against him. The culprit, however, now took fright, made concessions, and implored mercy; and by an application to the Court, the final punishment was withheld, on condition of his appearing publicly in the church, (brought in by the two churchwardens,) and there, in the face of the congregation, repeating after the curate (who was myself) a paper containing a candid confession of his crimes, an avowal of his contrition, and deprecation of Gods anger. The ceremony was accordingly regularly gone through, before an immense audience; and at the conclusion of it, Mr. Gilpin, ascending the pulpit, delivered with a firm voice, and in the most impressive manner, an admirable appropriate sermon on this novel and remarkable occasion."—Warner's Literary Recollections, Vol. I, pp. 347 & 349.

to suspend their dinner-hour on his account. But in the good, w^h he expected to do, by talking with people, or in giving them instruction, as he casually met them, or visiting them in their houses, he generally found himself disappointed. He had no gift of talking, or instructing off-hand; and sometimes, when he thought he had much to say to any particular person, whom he wanted to reprove or instruct, & thought he had his lesson quite ready, he found all gone when he made the attempt. Whether this was owing to his having been little accustomed to talk with low people,—or to a timourousness, or delicacy of temper, and fearfulness of giving offense, it however acted so powerfully upon him, that he seldom found his instruction attended to, as it ought, or to answer the end he expected.* His visiting his parish was of some use; as it enabled him to ask questions, and see the state of it; and make acquaintance with his parishioners— and inquire into their characters, wants, and modes of life.

In a few years however he found these long walks too much for him. He then took a boy with him; and a little forest-horse; on which, for a mile, or two, he w^d ease his legs, and then walk again.

During these walks it was his custom to ruminate on some subject he had taken out with him; and to bring his thoughts home in a memorandum book. His sermons on these occasions were cheifly the subjects of his meditation;

* How different the impression Gilpin made upon others was from his own far too modest estimate of himself, may be gathered from the following extract. "His conversation, though correct and refined, was animated and agreeable, replete with anecdotes, enlivened with chastened and good-natured wit, and, to all appearance, entirely free from embarrassment. Such, however, was not the case. His singular modesty led him to believe that he was deficient in the faculty of conversation; and he has lamented, in a letter, (what would never have been suspected, without his own confession,) that he felt such an incapacity to support it, as repressed his powers both of thought and expression. 'I have had a visit from Mr. Seward,' Gilpin writes. 'He is a very informed man, and has the most pleasing talents in conversation, of almost any person I meet with; talents which I almost envy as I possess so little of them myself. I have lived so little in company, and so much with a book and pen, that I rarely think, without one in my hand. I rarely talk on any subject in company, but when I leave it, I recollect fifty things which I might have said, and which did not at that time occur.' — Warner's Literary Recollections, Vol. I, pp. 357-8.

most of which he composed in the fields. Often he discussed only short subjects under the title of *Hints for sermons*.

As years came on even these equestrian walks overpowered him ; and he was constrained to walk in his garden, or creep along the hedges in his neighbourhood. He was now obliged to procure assistance as he could do little more himself, than his sunday's duty at church.* It became now more his employment to compose and disperse among his parishioners such little books as he thought were most adapted to them.—Of these the chief was a fictitious account of two day-labourers of opposite characters, under the names of John Trueman, and Richard Atkins. Under these characters he brought together such circumstances as he thought might be most useful and exemplary among his young parishioners. He drew up also the life of an old man in the parish of the name of William Baker, whom all his parishioners knew ; and whose example, he thought furnished them with many useful lessons. He preached a sermon also at his funeral which he printed with his life.†

* It was at this period that the Rev. Richard Warner, to whom we are indebted for so many agreeable reminiscences of his Vicar, became, and continued for many years, his assistant.

+ "It is mortifying to reflect that, with regard to the subject of this last pamphlet, the worthy and unsuspecting Vicar of Boldre should have been the dupe of vulgar artifices and consummate hypocrisy, concealed under the cloak of apparent blunt candour and rugged honesty. William Baker was an old rustic resident in a wild part of the parish of Boldre. In one of his walks, Mr. Gilpin had lighted upon his cottage. On entering it, he found its inhabitant, an aged, but stout and athletic man, eating his humble dinner. All within was neat and clean, and something indicative of strong sense and a cheerful mind appeared in the countenance of the old peasant. Mr. Gilpin sat down, informed Baker who he was, and entered into conversation with him. He soon perceived that his host, though without much education, was a man of clear head and strong mind : *abnormis sapiens, crassaque Minervus*; well versed in the Bible; full of maxims of prudence and economy, and apparently of the most open, blunt, and independent character. Highly interested by his visit, Mr. Gilpin frequently repeated it; and from the conversations which passed, during this intercourse, between Baker and himself, he drew up that beautiful account which he published in the work above mentioned. The misapprehension of Baker's real character was not done away till some time after the death of the old man; and considering it as exemplary at the time of his decease, Mr. Gilpin wrote a short epitaph, and had it engraved on Baker's tombstone as a salutary monition to the parishioners of Boldre who were in the

Among his young parishioners he dispersed a short summary of the christian religion. It began with asking, *Would you know, whether you believe and live as a christian ought to do?* from whence it obtained, among the children, the name of the, *Would you know book*. This summary he made the children of the parish get to repeat; and on sunday afternoons called together as many of them as he could get together in his kitchen to be examined. But in so wide a parish, it was difficult to draw together any number.

Among many things in the parish, w^h M^r G^{:l} lamented but could not rectify, one was of peculiar magnitude. The poor house was a vile—ill-regulated, close, infectious hovel. The children were ragged, lousy, and unemployed. At the same time the expence of all this sloth and nastiness was enormous. The poor were continually craving; and the officers continually giving: but there was neither credit, nor comfort to one or the other. As this offensive place was a great distress to M^r G^{:l} he inquired into the expence of making it a comfortable dwelling; and calling a vestry, offered to give the parish an hundred pounds, if they would add what was farther necessary in fitting it up. The parish deliberating on the proposal, were convinced of the necessity of doing something; but they would not suffer so heavy a part of the expence to fall on their minister. They determined therefore to take the matter in hand themselves; and borrowing 800 pds, they bought a piece of land in an eligible situation; built a good house—got a very respectable master & mistress—set up an useful manufacture—and put the whole under an excellent regulation. The poor were well clothed—well fed—made comfortable, & happy; & yet,

same humble class of life with the deceased. At length, however, he was undeceived; and had the sorrow, rather than the mortification, to find that Baker had been, through life, a worthless and flagitious character: that age, instead of curing, had only altered the nature of his vices; and that by all, except the pastor, he had ever been known, and despised, as a consummate rogue, an oppressive extortioner, and a base hypocrite."—Warner's Literary Recollections, Vol. I, pp. 343-4.

taking in their labour, the whole cost the parish much less, than one third of the expense, which it had paid before. Health was restored. The old house was continually breeding agues, & putrid fevers. This airy situation was so healthy, and the cleanliness and care of the house so great, that the face of the parish doctor, except for casualties, was scarcely known. M^r G: was so much pleased with all this excellent management, that he drew up a short account of it, which he intended to deposit in the house, to shew future times what might be done. His friend M^r Forster of Walthamstow got a sight of this manuscript ; and desired M^r G.'s leave to print it. It afterwards got into the hands of the *society for bettering the condition of the poor*, who desired it might be printed for them ; and published for the benefit of other parishes.

From this publication the whole credit of this excellent institution was attributed to M^r G: but with great injustice : for he had no hand in it, except perhaps setting it a going by his offer of the hundred pounds, w^h was not accepted. M^r G. himself had no idea but of fitting up the old house. He was not equal to the work of regulating it ; and unless better heads than his, had been employed, it might still only have been an ill-regulated family, in a more comfortable mansion.

As M^r G: was thus endeavouring to be of some use in his parish, he amused his leisure in overlooking and correcting the many hints & sketches he had made during his vacations at Cheam. They consisted of a journey into Norfolk, cheifly to examine Lord Orford's pictures, taken in the year 1769—of a journey to the Wye, & through some parts of south-Wales, in 1770—into Cumberland & Westmorland, with a view particularly to examine the lakes, in 1772—into north Wales, in 1773.—along the south coasts of England, in 1774 —into the western parts of England, in 1775.—and into the Highlands of Scotland in 1776. To these he added one journey more thro the several parts of New-forest ; being

struck with the beauties of forest-scenery, which were new to him. Most of these pieces were in a rude unpolished state ; & the sketches, w^h accompanied them, were little better than mere outlines. In overlooking these hints, he had no idea but of mere amusement. He had laid aside all thoughts of any farther travels ; and found a pleasure now in recollecting, & inlivening with drawings, the scenes w^h had already entertained him. But his friend M^r Mason having seen one of these little journeys—that to the lakes of Cumberland and Westmorland, spoke of it in so handsome a manner in his life of M^r Gray, that he excited the curiosity of several people. The Earl of Dartmouth particularly was desirous to see it, and being much pleased with it, carried it to the King. M^r G[:] was now desired by several of his friends to print it. He alledged the hazard of printing a work, w^h so many plates would make expensive. A subscription was advised : and the Duchess Dowager of Portland wrote to him on the subject ; and sent him a note of one hundred pounds as her subscription. He Did not however like the idea of pushing or solliciting his friends for a subscription : he chose rather if he did print it, to rely on the public. He therefore declined the idea of subscription ; and returned the Duchess's note with many thanks for her generosity. His friend M^r Mason advised him to try the taste of the public with a smaller work. This advice he took ; & printed a few picturesque remarks on the river Wye, & some parts of south Wales. This work was very well received ; & M^r G[:] now thought he might venture to print his larger work on the lakes of Cumberland and Westmorland, but with fewer plates, than the drawings he had made for it.* This work M^r G[:] intended to have dedicated

* I venture to give an extract from this book descriptive of Scaleby Castle, partly because it is a fair specimen of the style of our author's numerous works on picturesque scenery, but chiefly because the place is so much associated with him and the family.

"About three miles farther stand the ruins of Scaleby Castle. This was another of those fortified houses, which are so frequent in this country. It

to the Duchess Dowager of Portland : but she dying in the mean time, he inscribed it to the queen ; of whom he had then a high opinion ; particularly for the kindness, which the king and she had shewn to his friend M^r Delaney, after the duchess of Portland's death.

The returns of this work, and of two or three others of the same kind w^{ch} he afterwards printed, inabled him to execute a plan he had long conceived. There was no school in the parish, where any religious care was taken of children ; or where they were taught to write, or cast accounts. This want M^r G. wished to obviate. He did not care to spend in charity any part of his childrens patrimony, but the produce of his amusements he thought he had a fair right to spend

stands, as castles rarely do, on a flat ; and yet, tho' its site be ill adapted to any modes of defence, it has been a place of more than ordinary strength. Rocks, knolls, and bold, projecting promontories, on which castles usually stand, suggest various advantages of situation, and generally determine the kind of structure. On a flat, the engineer was at liberty to choose his own. Every part was alike open to assault. He first drew two circular motes round the spot he desired to fortify : the circumference of the outward circle was about a mile. The earth, thrown out of these two motes, which were broad and deep, seems to have been heaped up at the centre, where there is a considerable rise. On this was built the castle, which was entered by two drawbridges ; and defended by a high tower, and a very lofty wall. At present one of the motes only remains. The other is filled up ; but may still be traced. The castle is more perfect, than such buildings commonly are. The walls are very intire ; and great part of the tower, which is square, is still left. It preserved its perfect form, till the civil wars of the last century ; when the castle, in too much confidence of its strength, shut its gates against Cromwell, then marching into Scotland ; who made it a monument of his vengeance. What share of picturesque genius Cromwell might have, I know not. Certain however it is, that no man, since Henry VIIIth, has contributed more to adorn this country with picturesque ruins. The difference between these two masters lay chiefly in the style of ruins, in which they composed. Henry adorned his landscapes with the ruins of Abbeys ; Cromwell with those of Castles. I have seen many pieces by this master, executed in a very grand style ; but seldom a finer monument of his masterly hand than this. He has rent the tower and demolished two of its sides ; the edges of the other two he has shattered into broken lines. The chasm discovers the whole plan of the internal structure—the vestiges of the several stories—the insertion of the arches, which supported them—the windows for speculation ; and the breastwork for assault. The walls of this Castle are uncommonly magnificent. They are not only of great height, but of great thickness ; and defended by a large bastion ; which appears to be of more modern workmanship. The greatest part of them is chambered within, and wrought into secret recesses. A massy portcullis gate leads to the ruins of what was once the habitable part of the Castle, in which a large vaulted hall is the most remarkable apartment ; and under it, are dark and

as he pleased : and his children could not take the least exception to it.

With the money therefore that he thus gained by his writings, he built a school ; and united to it a commodious little mansion for a master. The school is a handsome room 25 feet in length, & 14 in breadth, & 12 in height. It has a coved roof, and is adorned with a number of texts from scripture, which are hung on tablets on the wall ; and are chosen as particularly useful to be imprinted on the memory of children.

The number of children taken into the school are 20 of each sex. The boys are taught in the school : the girls in

capacious dungeons. The area within the mote, which consists of several acres, was originally intended to support the cattle, which should be driven thither in times of alarm. When the house was inhabited, (whose cheerful and better days are still remembered,) this area was the garden ; and all around, on the outside of the mote stood noble trees, irregularly planted, the growth of a century. Beneath the trees ran a walk round the castle ; to which the situation naturally gave that pleasing curve, which in modern days hath been so much the object of art. This walk might admit of great embellishment. On the one hand, it commands the ruins of the Castle in every point of view ; on the other, a country, which, tho' flat, is not unpleasing ; consisting of extensive meadows, (which a little planting would turn into beautiful lawns,) bounded by lofty mountains. This venerable pile has now undergone a second ruin. The old oaks and elms, the ancient natives of the scene, are felled. Weeds, and spiry grass have taken possession of the courts, and obliterated the very plan of a garden : while the house itself, (whose hospitable roof deserved a better fate,) is now a scene of desolation. Two wretched families, the only inhabitants of the place, occupy the two ends of the vaulted hall ; the fragment of a tattered curtain, reaching half way to the top, being the simple boundary of their respective limits. All the rest is waste ; no other part of the house is habitable. The chambers unwindowed, and almost unroofed, fluttering with rags of ancient tapestry, are the haunt of daws, and pigeons, which burst out in clouds of dust, when the doors are opened : while the floors, yielding to the tread, make curiosity dangerous. A few pictures, heirlooms of the wall, which have long deserved oblivion, by I know not what fate, are the only appendages of this dissolving pile, which have triumphed over the injuries of time. Shakespear's Castle of Macbeth could not be more the haunt of swallows and martins, than this. You see them everywhere about the ruins ; either twittering on broken coins ; threading some fractured arch ; or pursuing each other, in screaming circles, round the walls of the Castle.

"It was in this old castle the author of this tour was born, and spent his early youth ; which must be his apology for dwelling so long upon it." — Picturesque Tour in Cumberland and Westmoreland in 1772, Vol. II, pp. 121-125.

For nearly a century the Castle has been the abode of a family who, with the Gilpin blood, have inherited not a few of the Gilpin characteristics,

a commodious room in the master's house. The master has a salary of 24 pds a year; the mistress, of 12 pds.—The boys are taught to read, write and cypher; so far as the four first rules in arithmetic: the girls to read, knit, and sew. They were taught to spin, but it was found more profitable to knit. They get worsted from a shop in the neighbourhood, where they carry their work; and with their earnings, of which an acc^t is kept, they buy cloathes for themselves. This is a spur to industry.

Both boys and girls are expected to be able to read tolerably a chapter in the New Testament, before they are taken into the school. It would be more than the master or mistress could undertake, amidst their other avocations, to begin with all the children from their first rudiments. Besides, it encourages a desire of learning in the parish to make a little knowledge of reading an introduction to the school.

On opening the school M^r G[:] drew up a little explanation of what the children called the *Would you know book*; in which with a view to make them think a little for themselves on subjects of this kind, he mixed some easy pieces of natural history in proving the being of a God, & short accounts of a few jewish customs, in explaining different parts of the new Testament, wh^{ch} alluded to them.

This explanation is written in question and answer, and the boys and girls are, two or three times a week, examined in it. On sunday afternoons they all stand up together; and instead of being catechized at church, they repeat their catechism in the school; where the poor house children attend, and all others who are desirous to come. The bigger children stand up to answer the questions; the little ones sit in a circle within and listen.

As M^r G[:] had less hope of the present generation, his great end both in the religious instruction of his school; and in the distribution of his little tracts, was to give the children of the parish such an education as might enable

them, with the help of these books wh^{ch} are so familiar to themselves, to give their children more religious knowledge, than their ignorant parents had received.

Some object to this mode of written instruction by question & answer ; & prefer *vivā voce* instruction. No doubt it is preferable : but as instructors of this kind must sooner or later desert their posts ; & as proper successors cannot always be found, it seems better on the whole, to have *recorded instruction*. The apostles certainly instructed better than any books could do : but as they could not be perpetual instructors they left their doctrines recorded in the scriptures. Such examples we only follow. This little explanation however had so much credit, that the *Society for bettering the condition of the poor*, desired it might be printed, and sold for their use.

M^r: G's next care was to provide a proper endowment for his school. As he did not chuse to bequeath the expence of it to his children, he had a plan for endowing it himself. The picturesque works he had published, had gained him some credit among the lovers of painting, as a person in some degree skilled in the theory of landscape, wh^{ch} was the only subject of his pencil. Tho he certainly had no high opinion of his own drawings, yet as he found the public had them in some esteem, he conceived a plan of raising a fund upon them, after his death, for the endowment of his school.

With this view he employed much of his leisure in making drawings. They were cheifly imaginary & seldom went beyond the idea of rough sketches. They required therefore, if the expression be not presuming, some *skill to examine them* ; for there was neither colour, nor neatness of execution, to allure the eye. He put many of his drawings also into books, & prefixed to them written notes, either explanatory, or instructive, which he hoped would give them some value.

Having thus gotten together as many drawings, and

books of drawings, as he hoped would answer his end, he appointed trustees to see his sales managed properly after his death. At the same time he applied to several of his friends, who were either men of consequence, or lovers of art, requesting them to assist his sales by their interest. They all promised, and wrote him letters to that purpose ; which letters were laid by his will, and are to be sent by his trustees to the gentlemen who wrote them when their assistance is necessary.

He drew up also a catalogue of his drawings, and books of drawings, to which he added a sort of criticism on his own drawings, that the purchaser might know before hand, what he had to expect. As this account was adorned with two or three plates of figures by M^r: Sawrey Gilpin, M^r: G: thought it might sell for two shillings or half a crown, which would be a good adition to his expected gains. Mess^r: Cadell and Davies were so good as promise to sell it gratis.—On all these circumstances M^r: G: rested quietly in hopes, that he had furnished a sufficient endowment for his school, after his death. If not, he left several papers behind yet unpublished, (three journies, into Norfolk,—N: Wales—& along the southern coasts of Britain—several dialogues, & other things) which his executors might dispose of to make up the sum he wanted.*

Thus M^r: G. has given an account of the only two transactions of his life, which make it worth the attention of his posterity—his mode of managing his school at Cheam, which was uncommon—& his mode of endowing his parish-

* The first amount raised from the sale of his writings was four hundred pounds, with which new schools were built. Shortly after this account was written, Mr. Gilpin sold his accumulation of drawings, which realized over twelve hundred pounds, and was employed towards an endowment. He again, more assiduously than ever, laboured with his pencil during the remaining two years of his life, and with such success that, after his decease, more than sixteen hundred pounds was produced by the sale at Christie's, which was applied to the benefit and extension of the schools.

school at Boldre, from the *profits of his amusements*, w^h was also, as far as he knows, intirely new.

As Boldre was a vicarage M^r G: was always hurt with collecting his privy tithes. Tho they were compounded at less than one third of their real value, yet they were seldom paid to his collector, without grudging ; and sometimes occasioned little altercations between the vicar and his parishioners. He called a vestry therefore at Boldre, & also at Lymington, & Brokenhurst (which are appendages of Boldre) and made them all an offer never to raise his tithes, if the parish officers would collect them for him, as they then stood in his books. They all said the offer was liberal, & complyed : only they told him, as the tythes were not very equitably adjusted, they must make a new rate ; and if any objected, he must, as the ostensible person, stand by them. This was fair, and the matter was amicably adjusted on all sides. Two persons only did object.

The first was an inhabitant of Lymington. M^r G: told him, if he had adjusted the rates himself, he might have suspected some ground for the complaint : but as they were adjusted by the parish-officers, he c^d not admit any alteration in the composition. He told him however there was one way, in w^h he might be assured he could not be imposed on ; & that was by making the vicar take his tithes in kind. He had only a garden that was titheable ; & M^r G: offered to appoint some poor person in the neighborhood ; to whom he might give the tenth part of the produce. The man said that, would be very troublesome. M^r G: perfectly agreed with him ; & so the affair ended.

The other aggrieved person, was a considerable farmer at some distance from the vicarage ; and upon the presumption of this distance, he informed M^r G: he might take his tithes in kind ; & he had a pig ready to be delivered. M^r G: on this message, appointed a person who dwelt near him to whom he might pay his tithes ; & whom M^r G: sent

to receive the pig. The farmer finding his end frustrated returned his service—desired M^r. G. w^d accept the pig; & let the matter rest, as it was.—This was the last trouble M^r. G: had ab^t his tithes; for his parishioners all knew, they were let considerably below their value.

M^r. G's whole income, after making deductions for his school—his curate—& some other annual expences, amounted to ab^t 600 pds. a year.—From the time of his leaving Cheam he determined neither to exceed his income by spending; nor increase it by saving: and this determination he maintained, except in one or two instances; when being obliged to encroach on his capital, he thought it right by his saving to bring it again to its old level.

It was an opinion of his that every man may be in easy circumstances if he please. Exceptions, no doubt, must be made for unavoidable misfortunes—a severe sickness, or a large family. But except in such circumstances, frugality & industry will always ensure a competency. There are very few, even among the lowest people, who do not indulge some unnecessary expences: and if these were brought to the account of necessaries, they would lessen many a want, which now falls burdensome. The *extravagant labourer* often applies in his necessity to his wealthy neighbour, and feels no shame on receiving alms, when he deserved correction. The *extravagant gentleman* has no such resource. He must either bear patiently the distresses he brings upon himself; or he must be guilty of many meanness to supply his want of discretion. He must run in debt, or he must borrow little sums, which he never means to pay—or he must frequent the tables of his rich neighbours—or he must cringe and make suit to his superiors for their interest to better his fortune. M^r. G: was aware of all this. His income with frugality was a good one: without it, nothing. He lived within his circumstances; & had therefore his hands at liberty. This was always of use to him—sometimes of singular use; &

made any little extraordinary expence, and high taxes, never felt by him.

One expence he totally avoided. He neither gave, nor received invitations to dinner. He was surrounded by rich neighbours, who were continually making handsome entertainments. He was glad to receive a friend at dinner in a family way; or a neighbour to drink tea: but the expence of entertainments—the loss of time they occasioned, which in large mixed companies is seldom made up by any thing but a good dinner—and the bustle they throw a little family into—were all reasons with him for avoiding such engagements. Besides he thought the efforts of a scanty larder, endeavouring, in some degree to vye with the opulent board of some potent neighbour, exceedingly ridiculous. Nor indeed did he like an introduction to the *science of eating*: and as he wished to set his face at all times against encroachments on the simplicity of a mere plentiful & hospitable table, it was very disgusting to him to linger 3 or 4 hours among high dishes, second courses, deserts, and rich wines.

But tho' he did not unite in any of these scenes of festivity, he could speak with assurance that he never gave offense to his neighbours by his refusal. Refusing all, he disengaged none. Indeed as neither he, nor his wife, played at cards, they conceived they might often be disagreeable intruders.

About a year or two after M^r G: was turned of 70, he fell into a dropsy, which the medicines he applied to, could not subdue. He was brought to the last stage of it; and thought of nothing but his dissolution, uniting with his family in what is generally the concluding scene of a Xstian life, receiving the holy communion together.

It pleased God however, that by the use of the *digitalis*, or *foxglove* he recovered. He had always been an abstemious man in point of liquour. Wine he seldom touched, when he could fairly avoid it. As he was now enjoined to drink it as

a *medicine*, it went down unpleasantly at first. He found however that it daily grew less unpalatable ; & could easily conceive, how the pleasurable necessity of a glass of wine might grow upon young people, who had frequent opportunities of indulging it.

But tho the danger of his disorder was removed, it still left a cough, and an occasional shortness of breath upon him. When this latter grew troublesome, he had recourse perhaps once in a fortnight, to his *digitalis-pills*; a few of which would generally, in two or three days give him ease. He found however that at best he could endure no cold ; and was obliged to keep himself a close prisoner during the winter.

These complaints added to the weaknesses of age (for he was now near 77) prevented both his preaching and his attendance on his school, which he never used to omit on sunday afternoon. Instead of preaching therefore, his employment was to correct and print a volume of sermons. They were very plain, addressed to a country congregation ; and as every man thinks his own plan the best, Mr G : thought concise discourses w^h kept one interesting point in view, broken with two or three divisions, were more likely to hold the attention awake, than long discourses, unless kept up with uncommon spirit. An idea seems to be best conveyed in a few well chosen words. They lead directly to the point : whereas wordiness like opposing trumpery in a path, either hide it, or prevent your getting readily through it.

Out of these sermons he selected four, w^h he printed separately for the use of the farmers & labourers of his parish ; for whom they were originally intended.

His wife and he had now lived half a century together in as much happiness, as this world commonly allows. At least neither bishops, ministers nor kings could add to it. Their desires were always moderate ; and it pleased God to bless their moderation with peaceable and quiet

lives. They were both alive in the beginning of the year 1801 ; and having seen their two sons, both worthy young men, sufficiently provided for ; well married ; and at the head of large families, they had nothing now to wait for, but their last dissolution.*

* This "Record of a good man's life" cannot be more appropriately concluded than by a final, in every respect final, quotation from a book by one who had largely imbibed our author's spirit.

"Mr. Gilpin had now attained to an advanced age, and his health, which had been robust, began to decline. The decay, however, was gradual : neither exasperated by pain ; nor accompanied by any diminution of mental vigour. But, it prevented him from taking his usual exercise ; and confined him to the parlour apartment of his house. In a letter of the 19th of October, 1801, he writes thus to me of the then present state of his health :—' You are beginning life : Mrs. G. and I are ending it ; but, through the blessing of God, with much more comfort than we could expect at our years. Since my late illness, I have never been perfectly well : it has left a cough and shortness of breath. I am obliged to see more company than I wish. But I have a kind friend, who manages things dexterously for me. I commonly sit in my bow-window parlour *below stairs*, and all company is carried into the drawing room *above* : and such company as I wish to see, or want to see, she sends down to me.' In the meantime, the infirmities of Mrs. Gilpin, induced, (or, at least, increased,) by some unfortunate and repeated accidents, obliged her to remain a prisoner in her *bedroom*, on the drawing room floor ; so that this affectionate couple were separated from each other's society, though in the same house ; and obliged to have recourse to a frequent interchange of notes, as a medium of communicating their mutual sentiments to each other. This correspondence, I believe, continued for some months, and was carried on, as I have been told, in the most cheerful manner. The hand of death, which fell first on Mr. Gilpin, at length terminated it ; and he expired, after a few days' increased illness, on the fifth day of April, 1804, at the age of eighty ; bewailed by his connections ; lamented by his neighbours ; and regretted by a numerous circle of literary and enlightened friends, acquaintances, and correspondents. Holy hope and Christian affiance beamed in his eye, till it closed ; and 'his last faltering accents whispered praise.' His disease terminated suddenly. The day preceding it, was marked by an interesting circumstance. Mr. Goldwin, his immediate neighbour, called, as he was accustomed frequently to do, on the venerable man, and sat with him for some time. The invalid's spirits were cheerful ; and his countenance wore its usual placid and beamy smile. ' You will be surprised to hear,' said he, ' that I have been building in my old age.' 'Indeed ! and what may the structure be ?' ' It is my tomb : and, I am happy to say, I have *this morning finished it.*' Shortly after Mr. Goldwin left him, Mr. Gilpin *fell* ; never to speak again : and died on the succeeding day ! Such was the last scene of Mr. Gilpin's life, of whom it may be said, with a better application than to any character of heathen antiquity, *Non illi fuit vita crepta, sed mors donata* ; for his assured change was from 'corruptible to incorruption, from mortal to immortality.' The shock of his loss to Mrs. Gilpin in her very infirm state, was severe, and for a moment overwhelming : but faith soon triumphed over affliction, and sorrow was gradually softened down into cheerful resignation. She survived him (still, for the most part, a prisoner to her bed,) for three years and three months, and then, with the same peace, the same prospects, and the same certainty of everlasting happiness, fell asleep in the

Lord. One grave in Boldre church-yard contains the mortal remains of this exemplary pair ; over which stands a stone with the following epitaph, the former part of which was written by Mr. Gilpin, some time previously to his death.

' In a quiet mansion beneath this Stone
secured from the *afflictions* and still
more dangerous *enjoyments* of life
lye the remains of WILLIAM GILPIN
sometime vicar of this parish together
with the remains of Margaret his Wife
after living above fifty years in happy
union they hope to be raised in God's
good time through the atonement of a
blessed Redeemer for their repeated
transgressions to a state of joyful immortality
Here it will be a new joy to meet several
of their good neighbours who now lye
scattered in these sacred precincts around
them.'

He died April 5th 1804 at the age of eighty
She died July 14th 1807 at the age of eighty two ' "

Warner's Literary Recollections, Vol. I, pp. 362 to 365.

NOTE TO THE PEDIGREE.

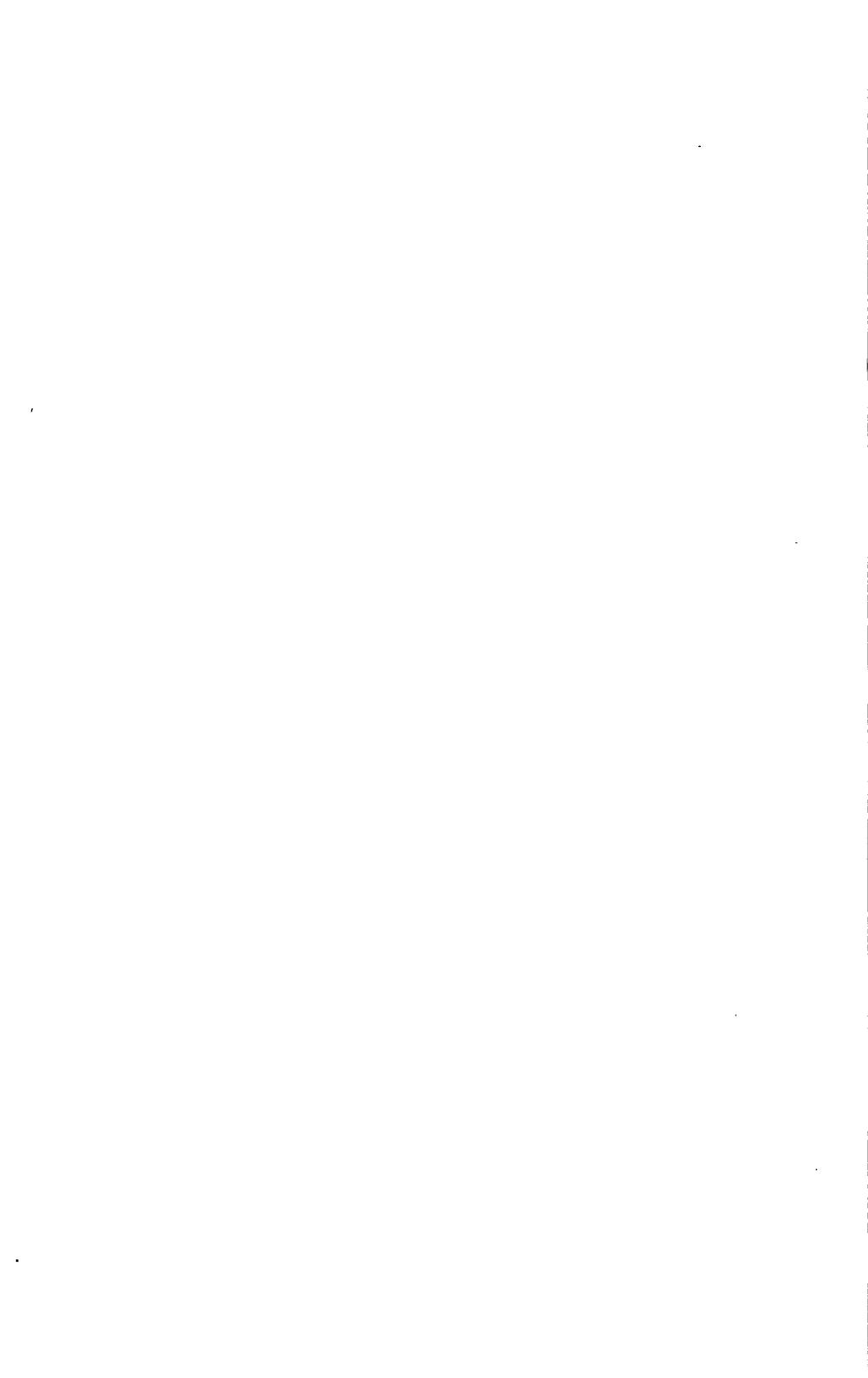
The Pedigree which professes to go back for twenty generations may well, in these days of spurious pretensions, be regarded with distrust; but, although every genealogist is aware that errors unavoidably creep into the most careful compilations, I venture, for the following reasons, to claim that an unusual reliance, considering its early commencement, may be placed on the roll of names previous to the fifteenth century.

This Pedigree appears to be based on the researches of, at least, two early members of the family, but especially of George Gilpin, the nephew of that George frequently referred to in the State Papers as Queen Elizabeth's ambassador at the Hague, at a critical period, not only of the History of the United Provinces, but of Europe itself. He was also nephew of Bernard, so well known as the Confessor of Queen Mary's reign. It was again, about the end of the sixteenth century, the subject of careful research by Sir Daniel Fleming, noted for his special investigations, but more particularly his genealogical researches into the History of Westmerland. Shortly after this, as we find it more than once stated in the Pedigree, Alan Chambre, Recorder of Kendal, (who, when he presented his own pedigree at the College of Arms, was complimented by the Herald for its fulness of details,) extended his enquiries into the antiquity of the Gilpin Family, (from which he was descended through an ancestress,) for the satisfaction of his friend William Gilpin, Recorder of Carlisle.

Since this period a century and a half has elapsed, during which the family has stood in the full light of day, and the pedigree might have been considerably enlarged, especially in the American branches, but perhaps it may be considered already by most to be of sufficiently formidable dimensions. I have had the opportunity of collating it, not only with an original manuscript of Sir Daniel Fleming's Pedigree, from which I have made a few additions, but also, by the kindness of Mrs. Fawcett, with the genealogical collections at Scaleby Castle, from which I have derived valuable information.

I much desired to discover the exact ancestor of the branch represented by Sir Richard Gilpin, Bart., of Hockcliffe Grange, Bedfordshire, who most courteously assisted me, but without a satisfactory result.

I have been equally unsuccessful with another undoubted offshoot, of which the late well-known philanthropist, Charles Gilpin, President of the Poor Law Board, and member for Northampton, was a scion. His sister, Mrs. Pitt of Rosemount, Oxton, has kindly afforded me assistance, especially from a pedigree in her possession, showing the origin of the first American branch, descended from Bernard, uncle to Richard, the Rector of Greystoke; and I am deeply indebted to the Vicars of Saint Bees, Broughton, Scaleby, and Saint Nicholas and Trinity Churches, Whitehaven, for their kindness in allowing me access to their respective Registers, a privilege I have never been denied by any Clergyman of the Church of England, and without which the genealogical enquirer would fail at the very outset of his investigations. The additions from these latter sources are indicated respectively by the letters, S.B.E., B.R., S.P., S.N.W.R., and T.W.R. K.R. refers to Kendal Register, and G.R. to Greystoke Register, the information from both of which has been kindly supplied to me by the Rev. Thomas Lees, Vicar of Wreay, to whom, and to Mr. R. S. Ferguson, F.S.A., I am not a little indebted for assistance.



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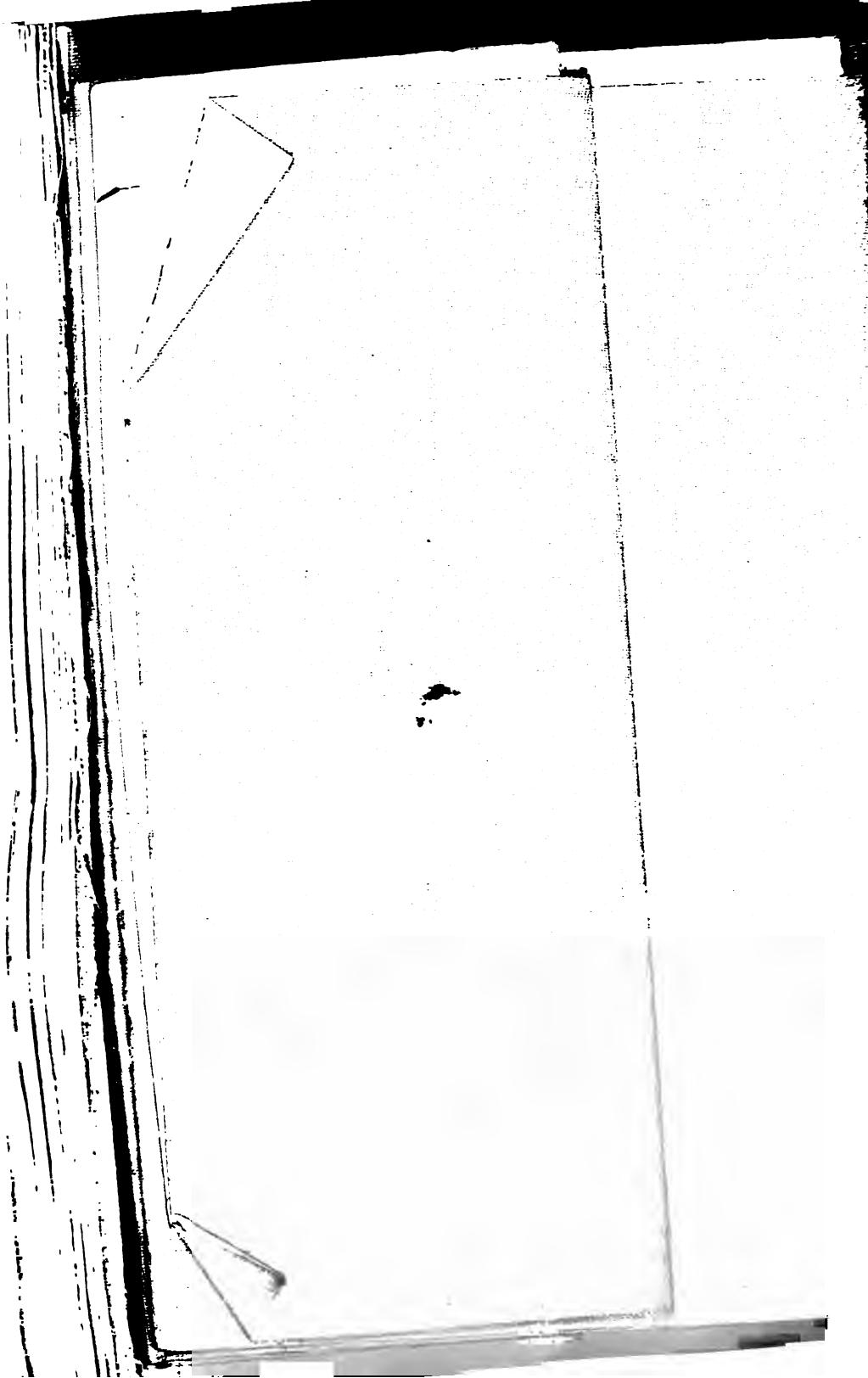
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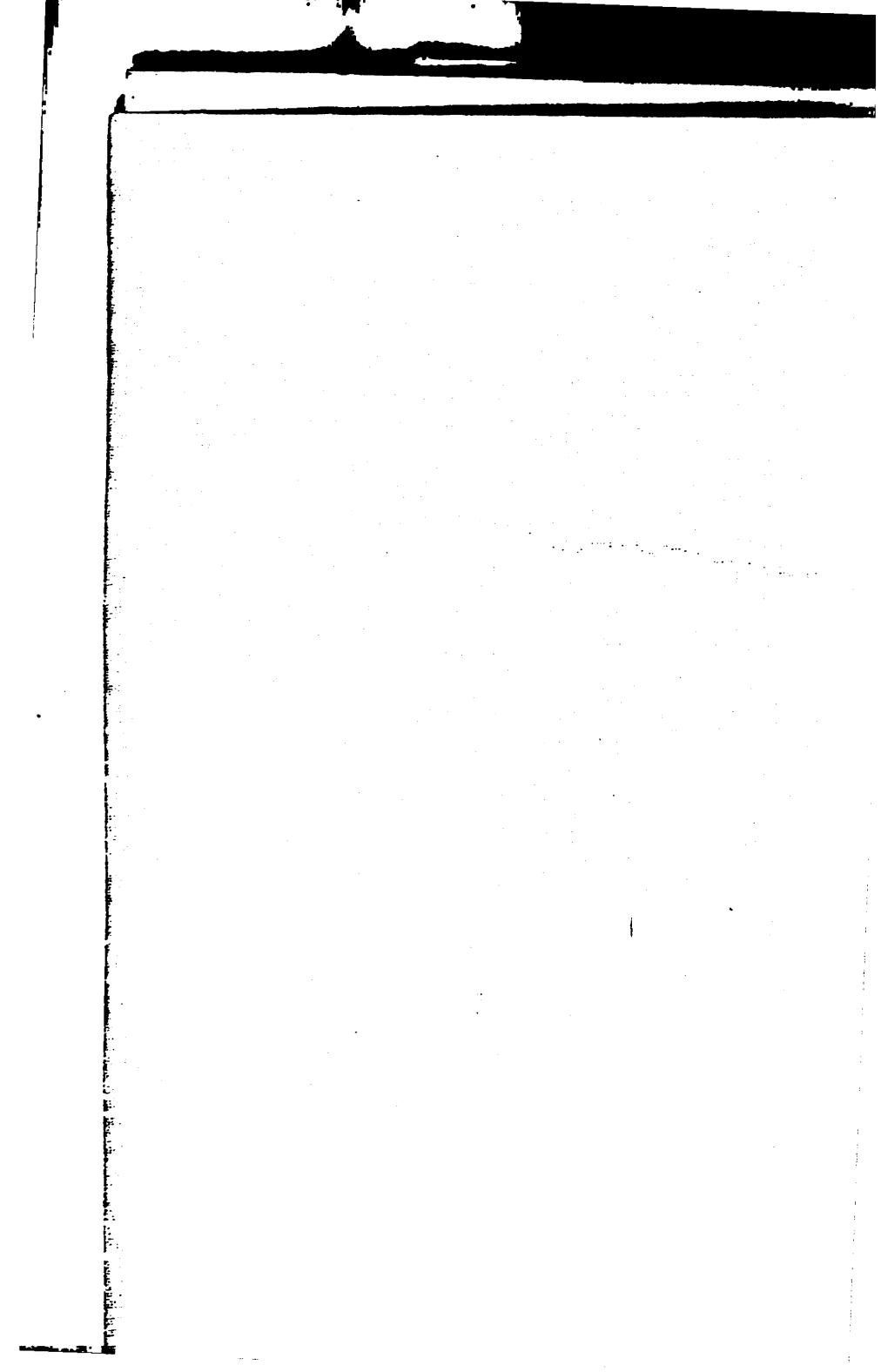
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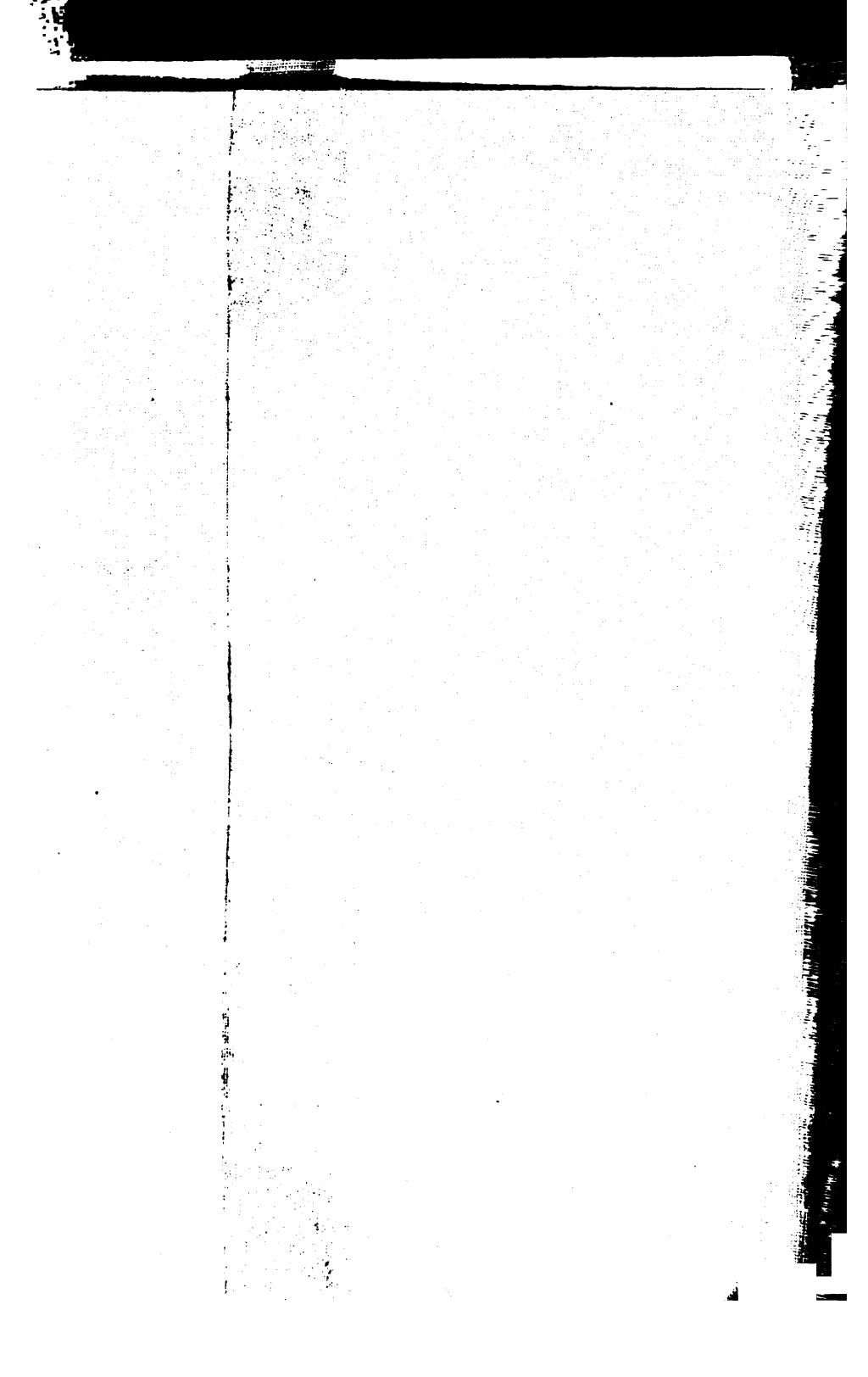
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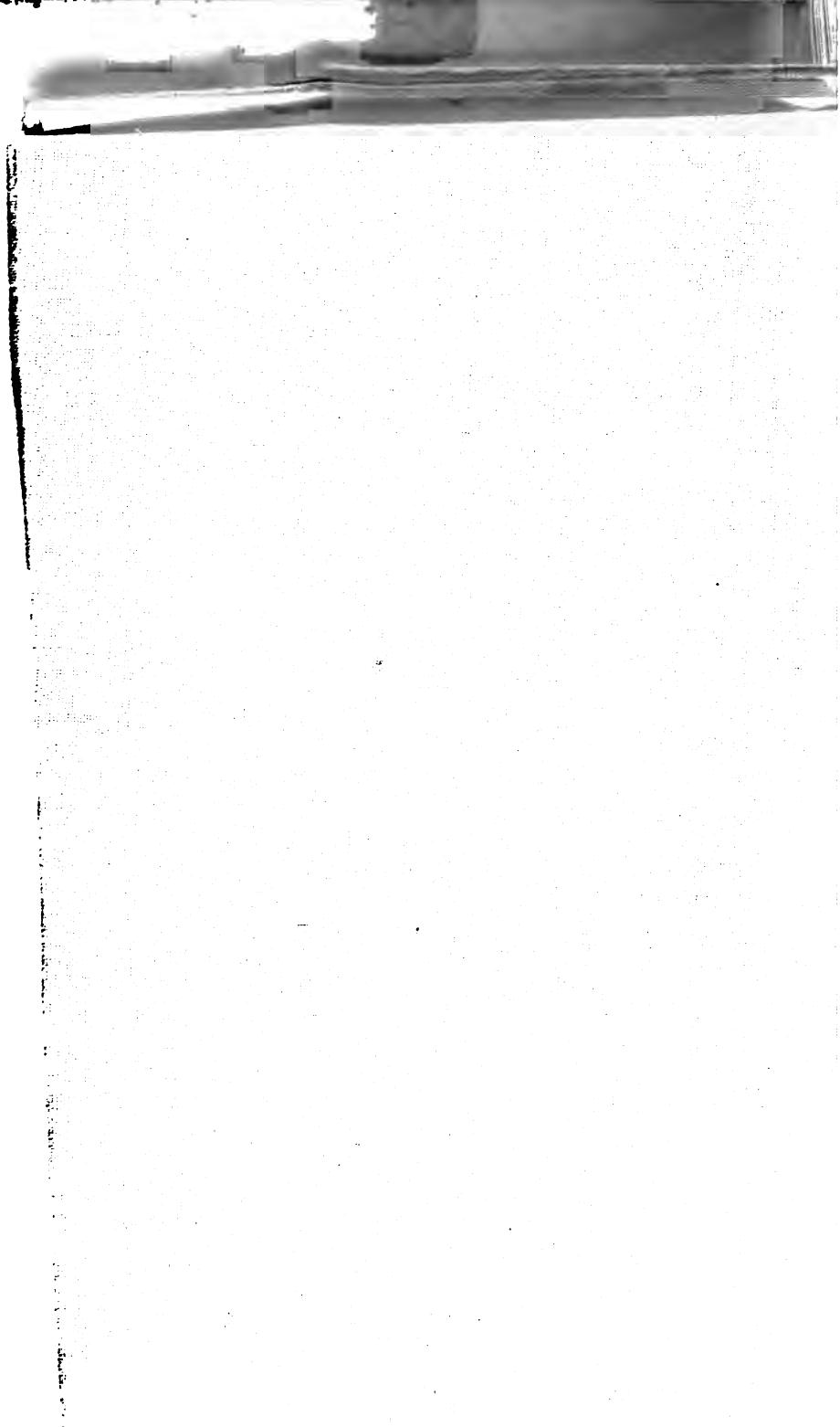
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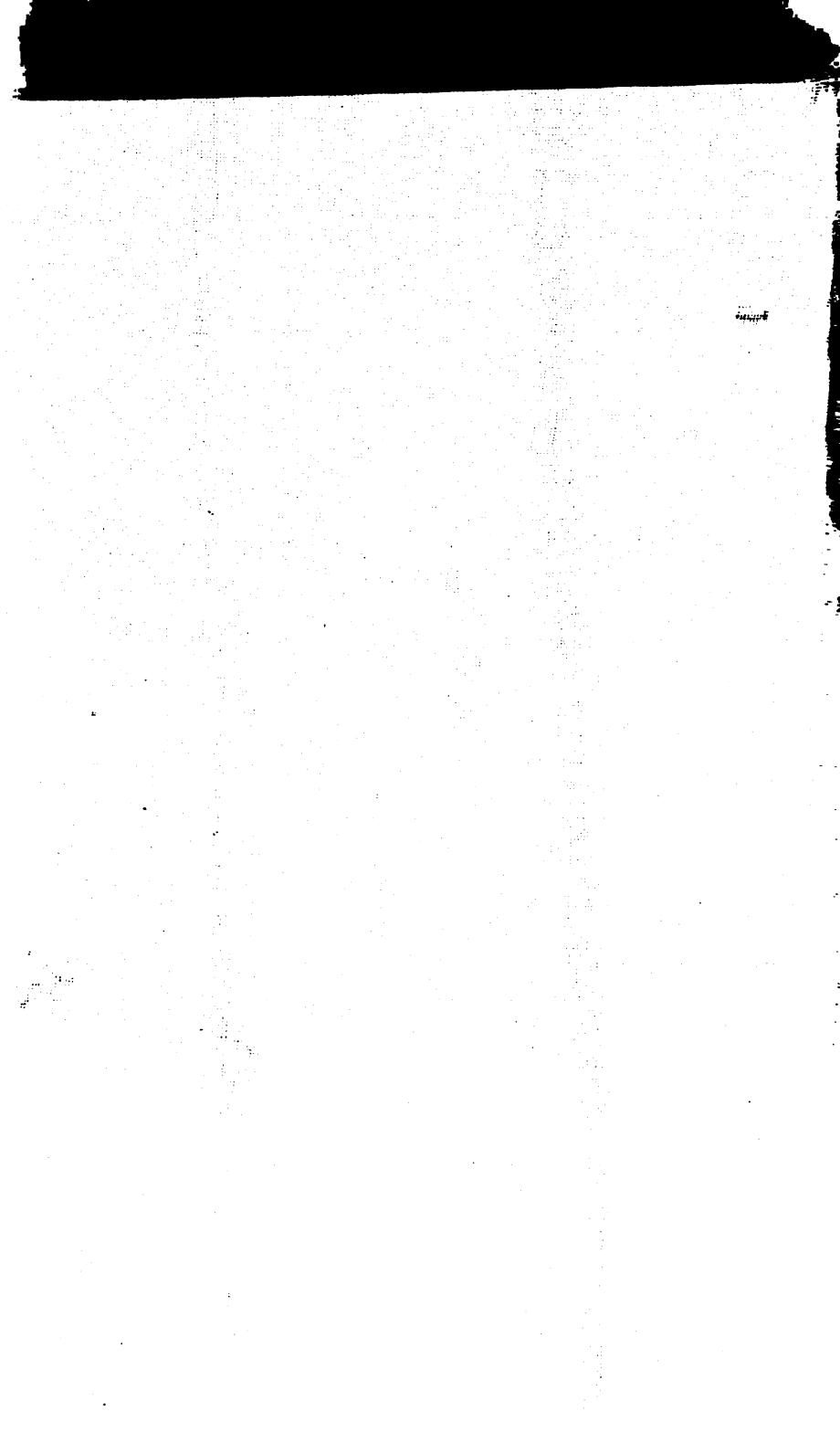




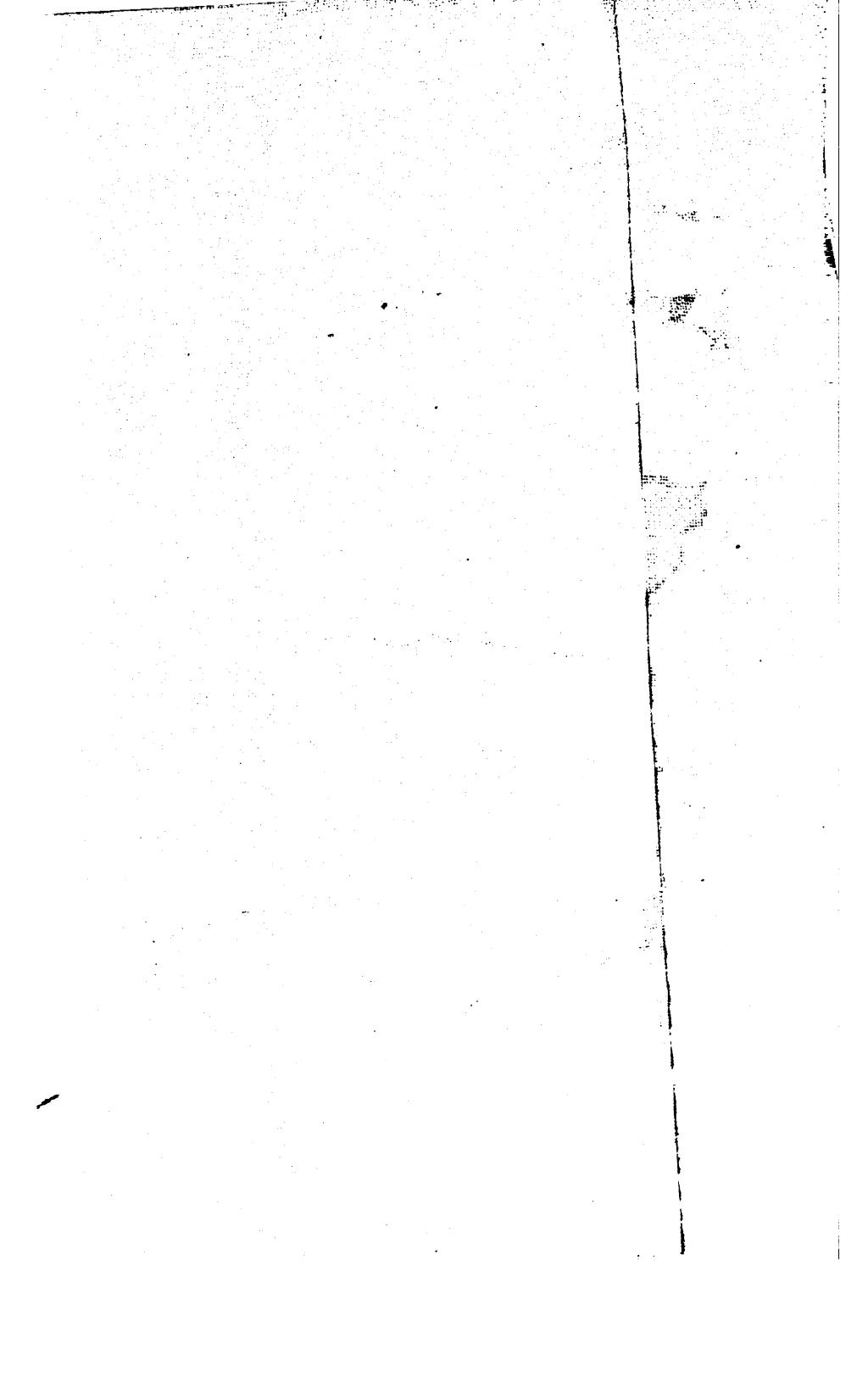


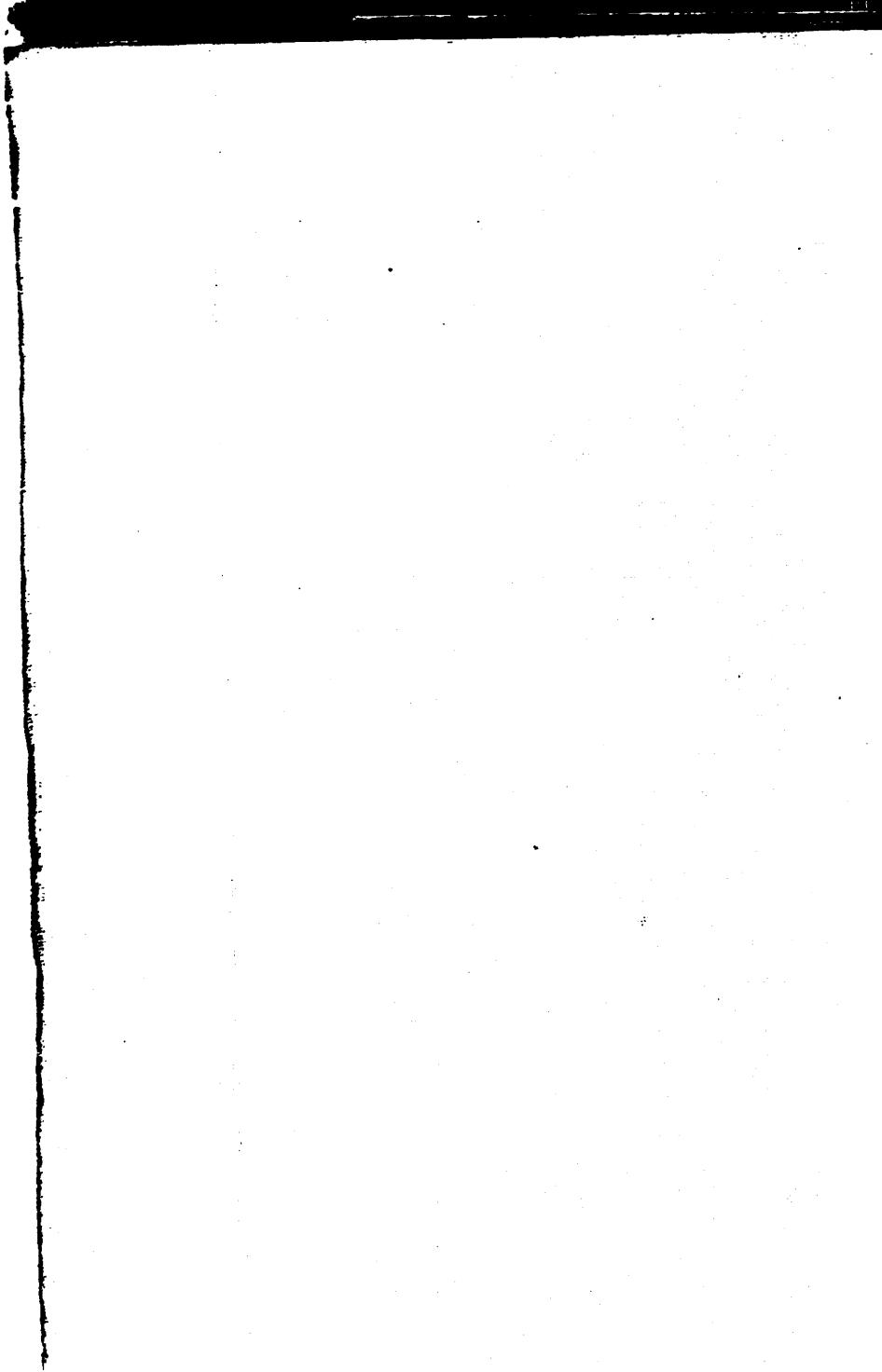


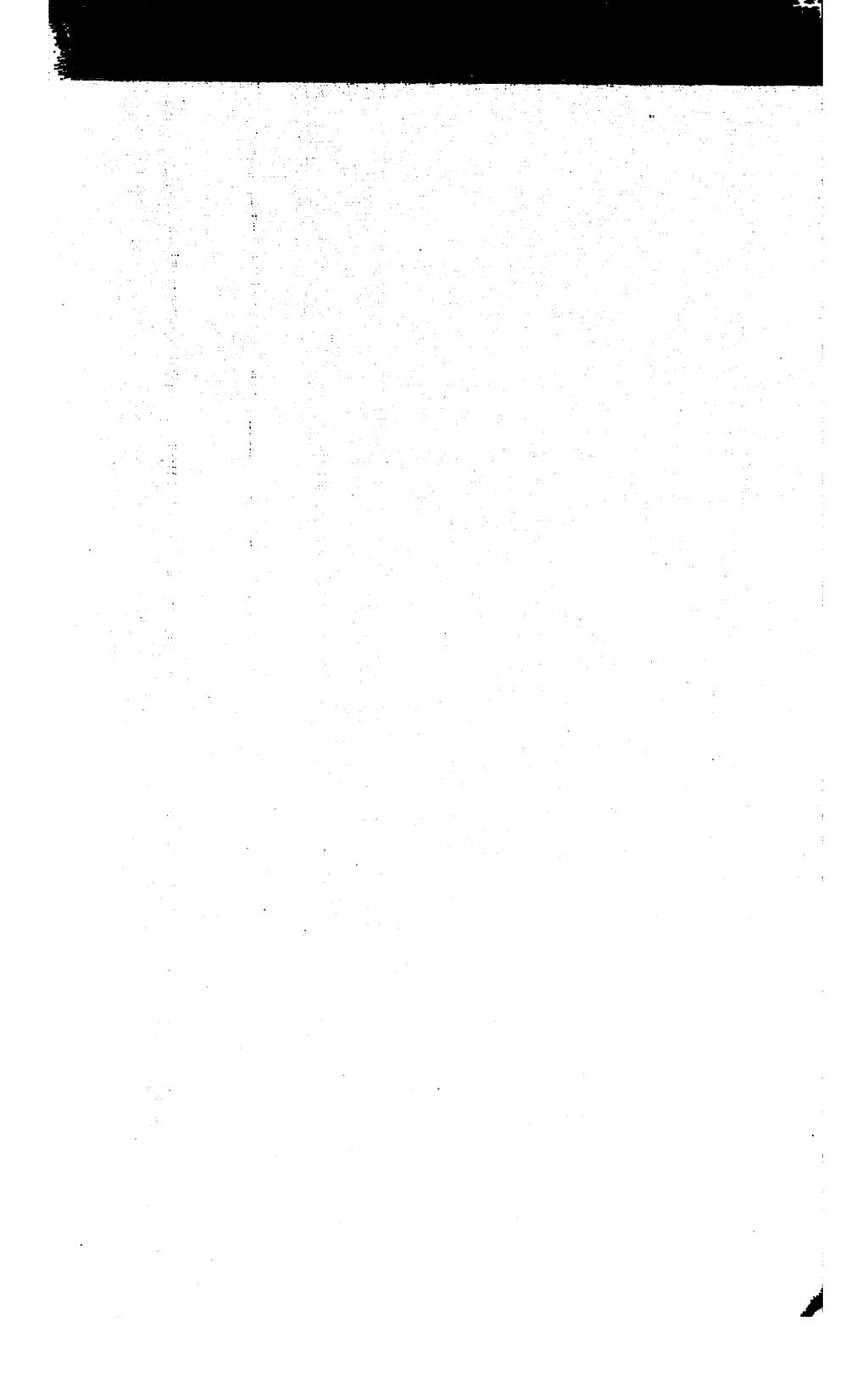


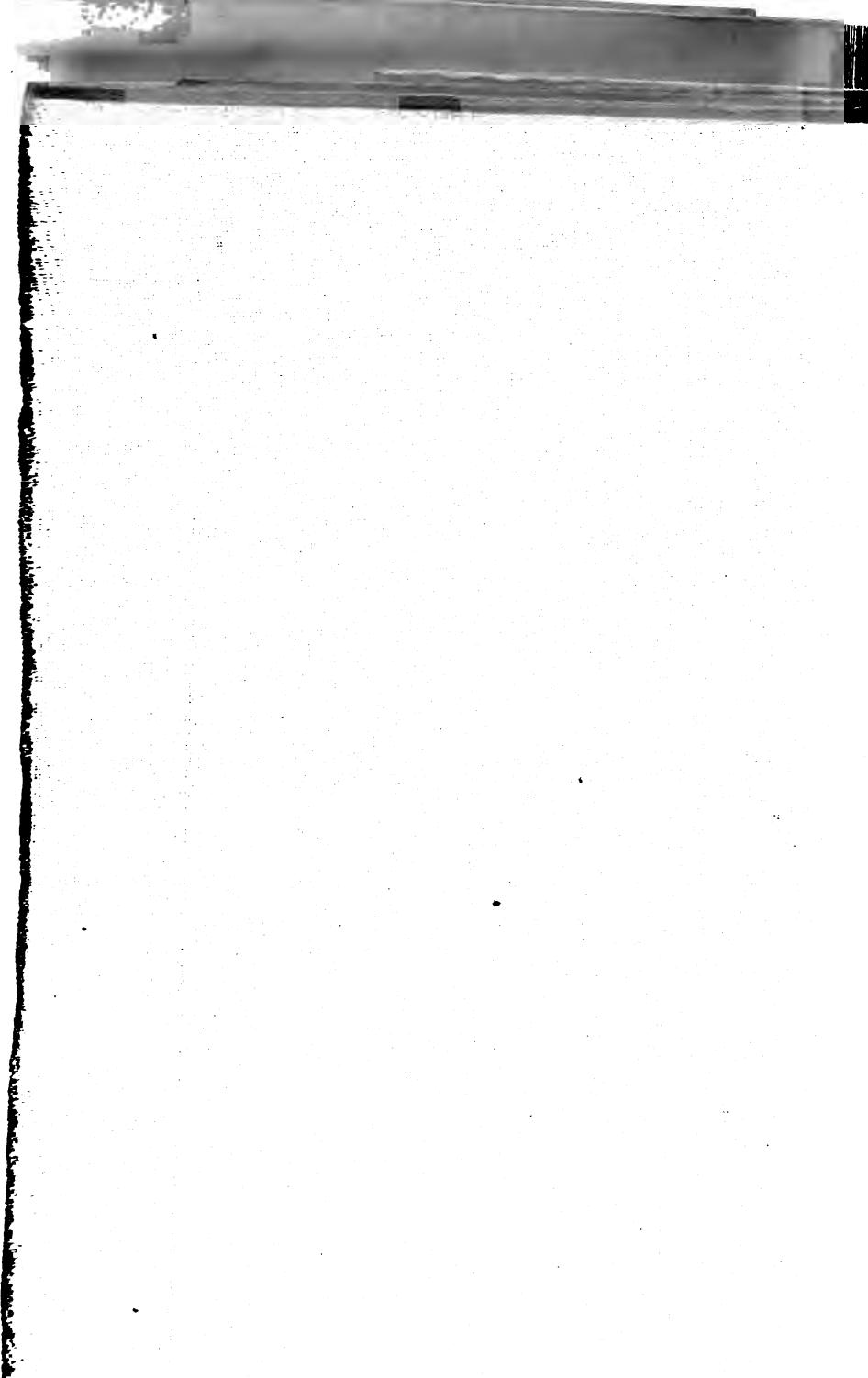


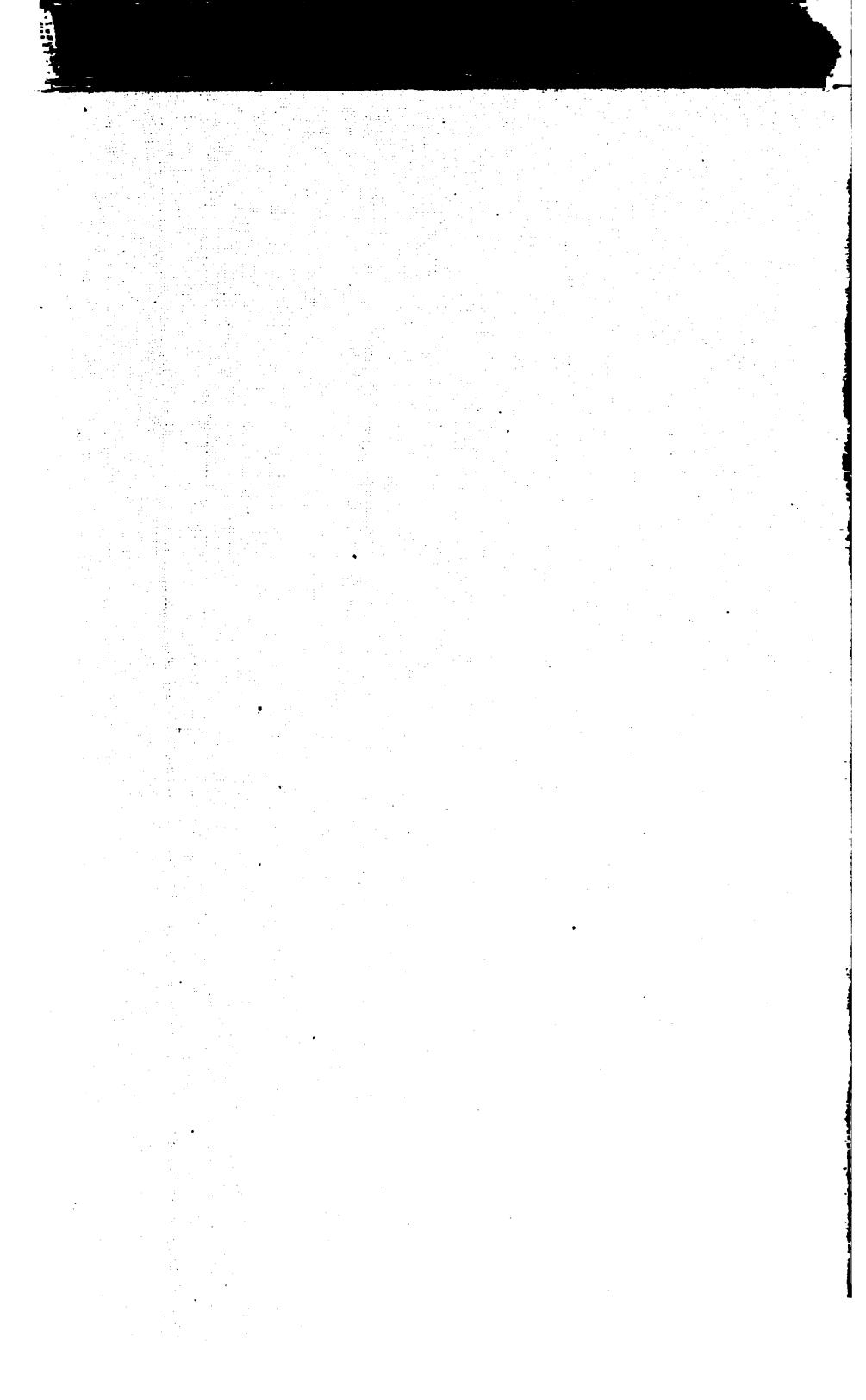
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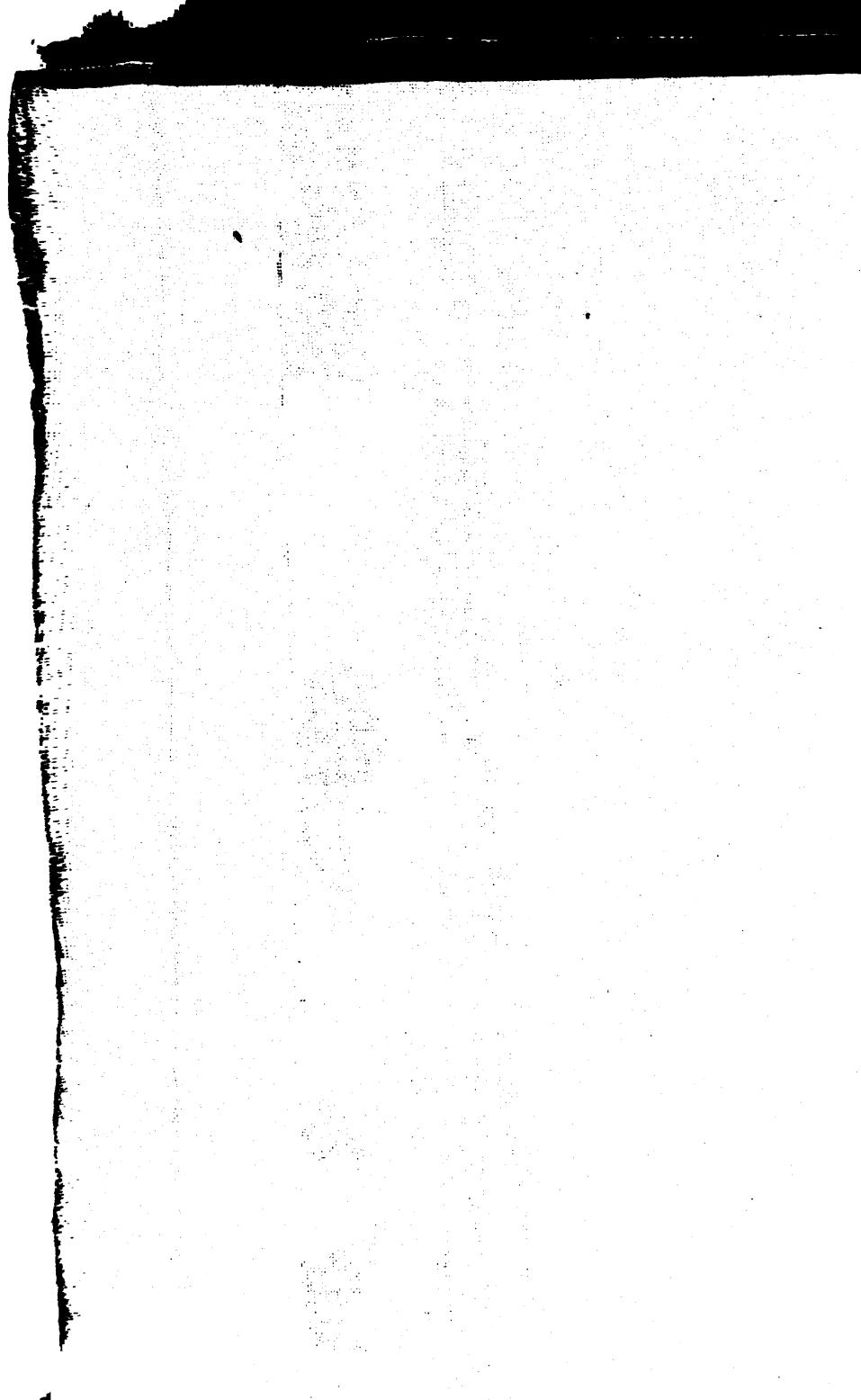


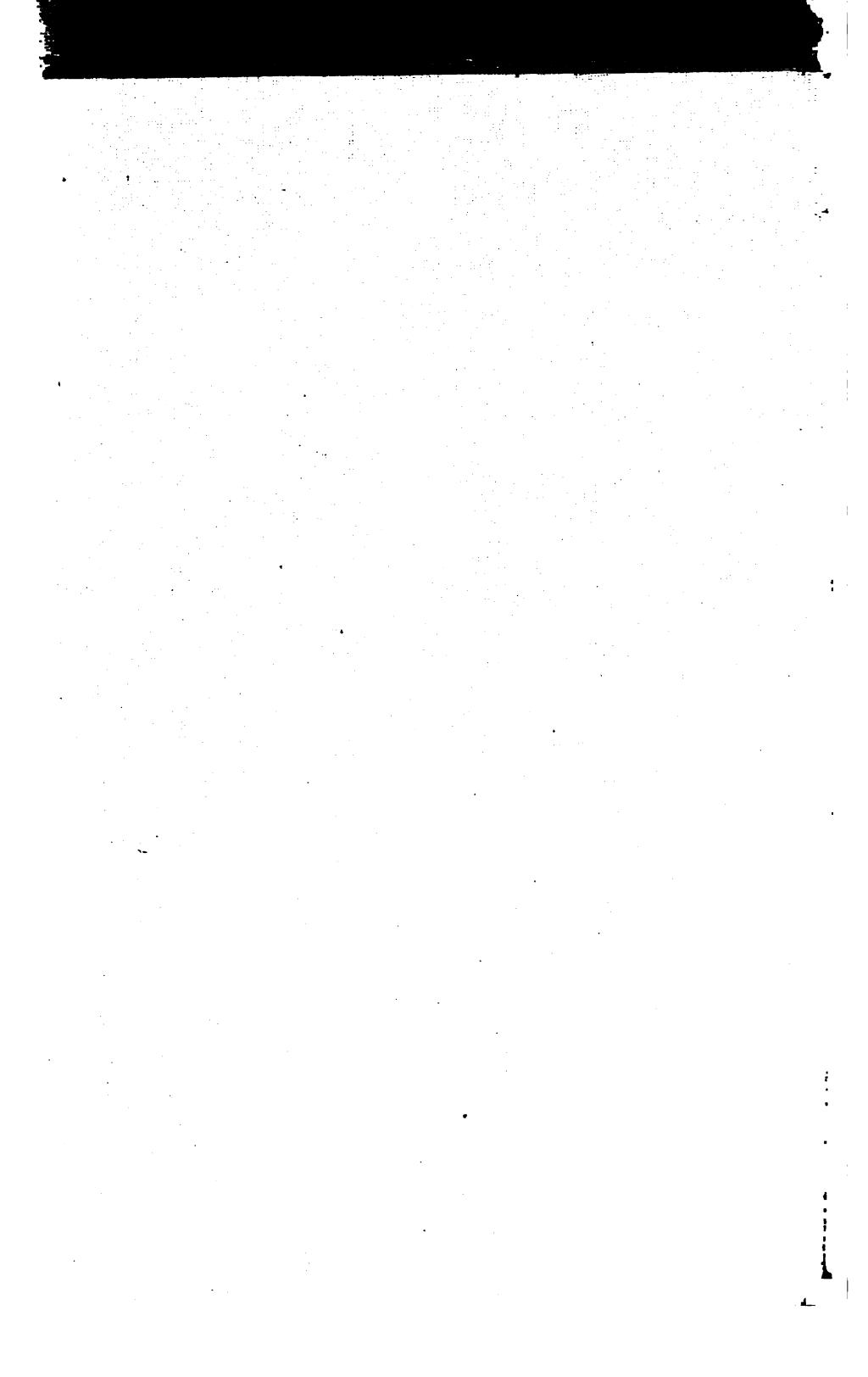




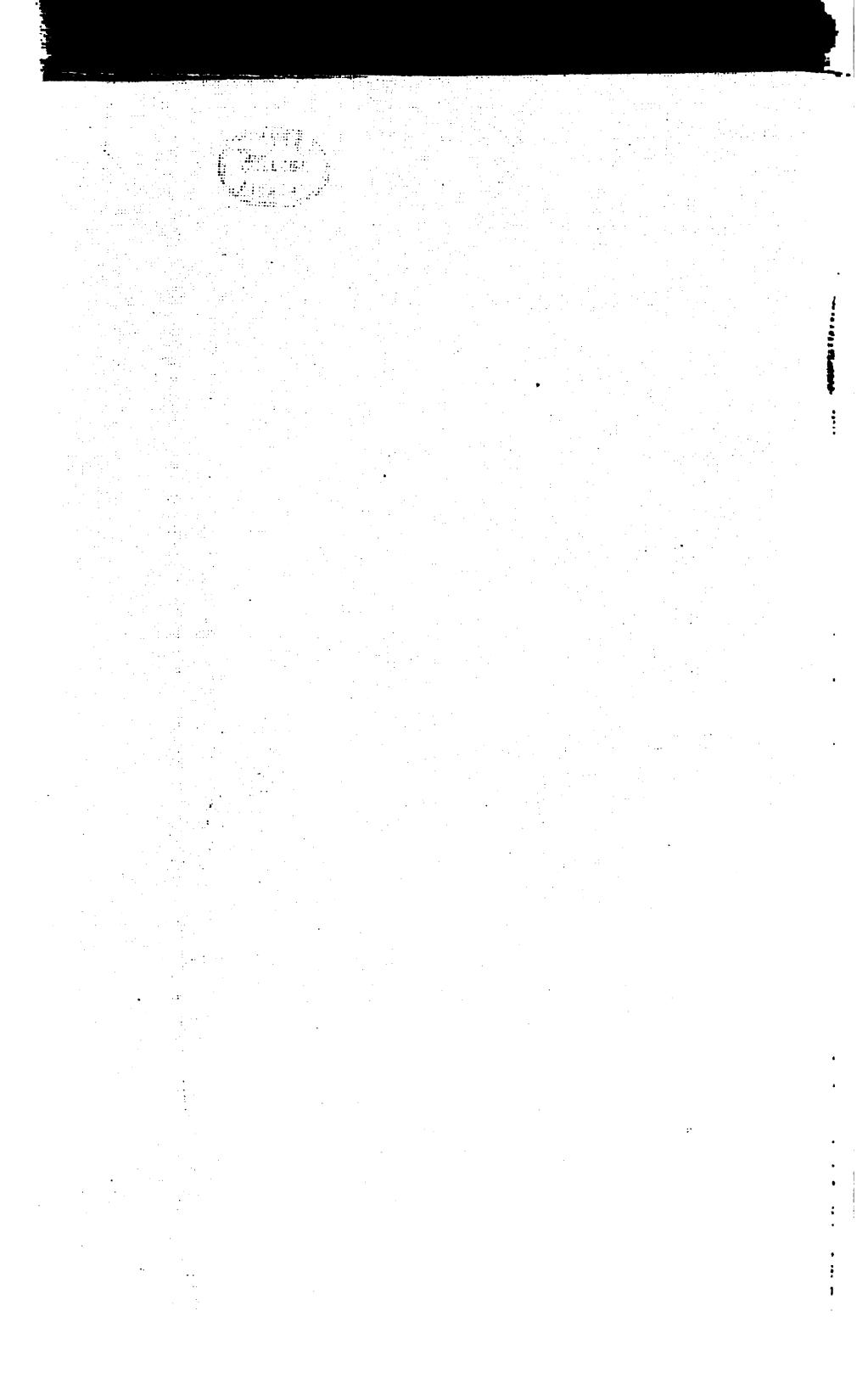


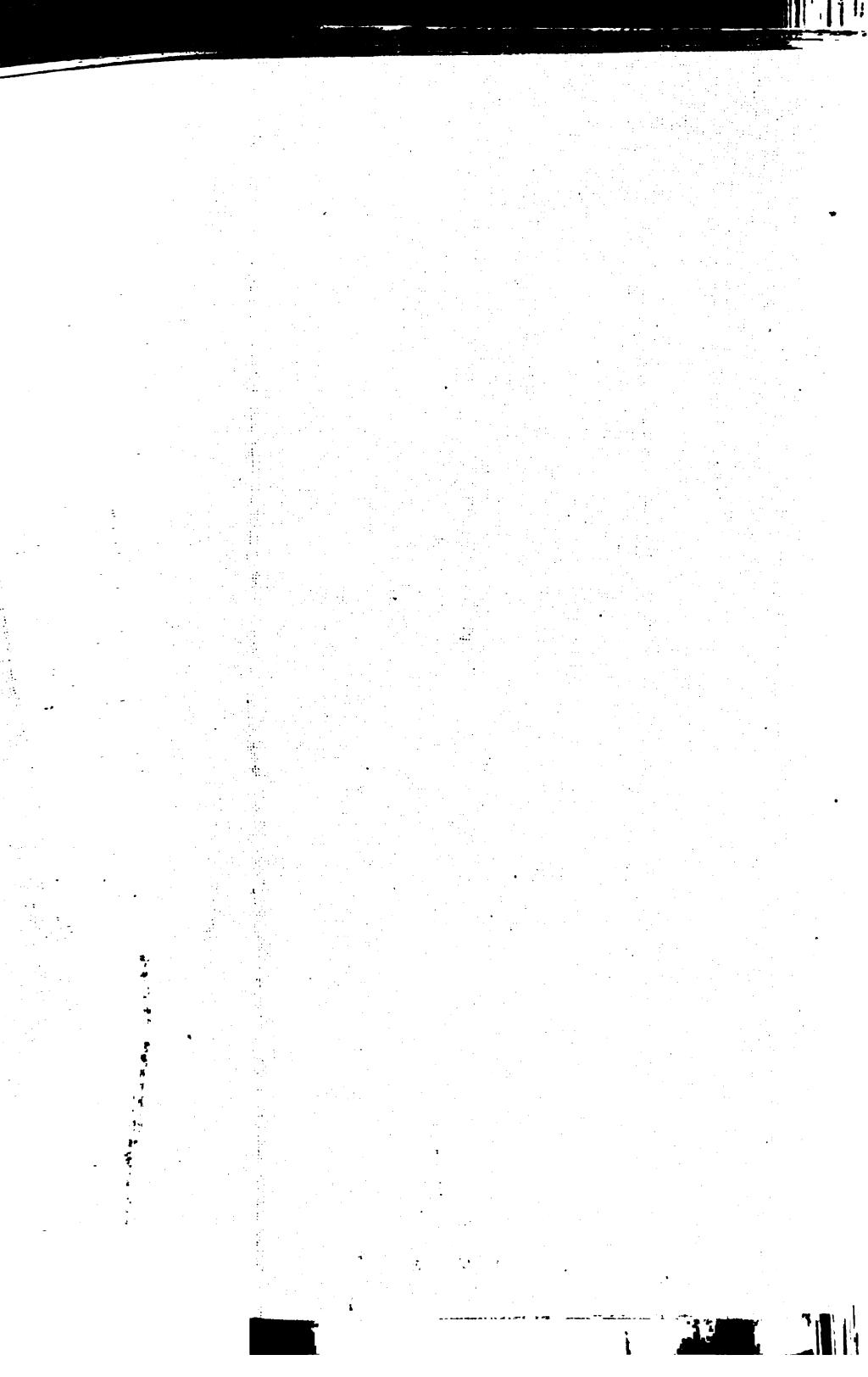


















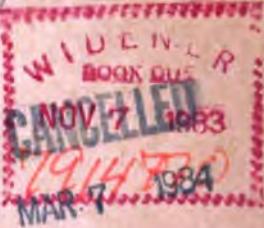
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